Erika A. Batcheller
04/28/2000 09:00:45 AM

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To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Releases New Report on Child Care

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2000

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202/456-2960

FIRST LADY RELEASES REPORT BY COUNTRY'S LEADING CHILD AND CRIME EXPERTS URGING GREATER INVESTMENTS IN CHILD CARE
April 28, 2000

Today, the First Lady will host an event with leading child care and crime experts -- including Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, America's expert pediatrician, and Sheriff Patrick Sullivan of Arapahoe County, Colorado -- to release a new report showing that investments in quality child care can help reduce crime and violence. The First Lady will call on Congress to fund the Administration's unprecedented child care budget for America's working families and their children.

INVESTING IN QUALITY CHILD CARE WORKS

Research has already demonstrated that child care helps children develop important cognitive, social and emotional skills and prepares them to start school ready to learn. It also helps working parents balance their priorities at home and at work. A new report, *America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy*, was prepared by an expert panel from *Fight Crime: Invest in Kids*, an anti-crime group of over 700 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, victims of violence, and youth violence experts. It includes ground-breaking research showing that children who receive quality child care early in life are less likely to have behavioral problems, commit crimes or inflict violence later in life. The report concludes that by assuring families access to high-quality child care and development programs we can greatly reduce crime and violence. Key findings include:

· At-risk children who are denied quality child care and development programs can have a five times greater risk of becoming chronic lawbreakers as adults.

· At-risk children who attend quality educational child care and development programs are

50 percent less likely to have two or more arrests by age 18.

· Low and moderate income working parents often cannot afford the costs of good quality child care -- costs that exceed tuition at many public universities.

· Expanding government investment in the quality of child care and development programs for at-risk young children can reduce by almost half the number of children experiencing more serious behavioral problems when they start school.

· Investing in child care makes economic sense because every dollar spent on quality educational child care saves taxpayers over five dollars on fighting crime.

The authors of the report are pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton of Harvard; Yale child development expert Edward Zigler; University of Pennsylvania criminologist Lawrence Sherman; two former police chiefs, William Bratton of New York and Jerry Sanders of San Diego; and *Fight Crime: Invest in Kids* president Sanford Newman, and research director William Christeson.

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CALLED FOR AN HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN QUALITY CHILD CARE

The Administration's FY 2001 budget includes the investments called for in this report -- a comprehensive child care budget to help working families pay for child care, improve the safety and quality of care, and promote early learning.

Providing Access to Affordable Quality Child Care:

· **Helps low-income families afford child care.** The President's budget boosts the Child Care and Development Block Grant by $817 million in FY 2001, enabling the program to provide child care subsidies to nearly 150,000 more children next year. These new funds, combined with the child care funds provided in welfare reform, will enable the program to serve over 2.2 million children in 2001, an increase of nearly one million since 1997.

· **Invests $30 billion over ten years in tax relief to help over 8 million families pay child care expenses.** The Administration's proposal makes the Child Care and Dependent Tax Credit (CDCTC) refundable for the first time, increases the level of the credit, and extends the credit to parents who stay at home with their children.

Promoting Quality Child Care:

· **Includes the largest expansion of Head Start in history, boosting funding by $1 billion.** This increase would assure that 950,000 children have the opportunity to participate in Head Start, nearing the President's goal of serving one million children by 2002. Head Start is our nation's premier early childhood development program preparing low-income children for a lifetime of learning and development by providing early, continuous and comprehensive child development and family support services.

· **Calls for a major investment in child care quality.** To ensure that children have access to early childhood programs that promote their cognitive development, the President's budget includes $3 billion over five years for the Early Learning Fund to help improve child care quality and early childhood education for children under five years old. It also includes $30 million for an early childhood professional development initiative to train child care professionals.

Helping Families with Child Care at Work and at School:

· **Creates a new child care tax incentive for businesses.** The Administration's budget includes a new tax credit for businesses that provide child care services for their employees. It will cost $1.4 billion over 10 years.

· **Helps low-income parents pursue higher education by offering college campus-based child care.** To enable low-income parents to pursue higher education, the Administration's budget includes $15 million -- a $10 million increase over last year's funding level -- to provide an additional 150 college campuses with grants to support the establishment or expansion of child care services.

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Message Sent To:____

Adele Starr / Working Woman 4/4/00

1) How did you stumble into this issue?
College, Yale, etc.
Wash Research Council (pre CDF)
Congress passed fed early bill in 1970 that wld have done wonders
Nixon vetoed it under pressure from right wing
"collectivization" of children
(his Adm. had supported it)
Rt wingers → wanted women to stay at home

2) Why do women get blamed
Always a tendency to romanticize the past

1973 Harvard Educ'l Review
children's rights

3) Economic arguments for ch. care?
- Business grp: child care / after care →
less work absenteeism; ↑ productivity
- Better preparing kids for academic work —
gd for our bottom line as a society
- Safe places (after care) —
↓ crime, drugs, sexual activity

WORKING WOMAN INTERVIEW TIMELINE
APRIL 4, 2000

9:30 am	Flowers and chairs positioned in Dip Room (Jen)
10:10 am	Addie Stan and Jennifer Warburg (photographer) arrive to briefing room
10:15 am	Escort from briefing room to Dip Room (Jen)
10:20 am	Photographer takes light readings (Jen)
10:30 am	Photographer escorted back to briefing room (Jen)
10:40 am	**Interview in Dip Room (Lissa/Erika)**
11:15 am	Photographer escorted back to Dip Room (Jen)
11:20 am	**Photographer takes photos of HRC and Addie at conclusion of interview (Also wants photo of HRC alone at desk, if time permits.)**
11:30 am	Addie and Jennifer escorted back to briefing room (Jen)

TO: HRC
FROM: Lissa
RE: Interview with Working Woman magazine
DATE: April 3, 2000

You are scheduled for a 30-minute interview Tuesday morning with Adele (Addie) Stan, the Washington bureau chief of Working Woman magazine. She is principally interested in your record on child care issues, but will likely ask about other children/family issues as well. (A photographer will shoot for about 10 minutes after the interview).

I have given Addie a good amount of background about your role and the role of your staff in promoting child care issues within the Administration. Specifically, I've talked to her about how the child care conference developed out of the early childhood conference; DOD's connection and your visit to Quantico; the child care conference itself; the Treasury Dept. working group that Rubin headed; the budget roll-out in 97-98.

She may ask about one meeting that you attended in December 1997 with the policy council. Apparently this is one where you pushed for tax incentives for stay-at-home parents; ultimately these incentives weren't included due to budget considerations (and we then got whacked by the right wing for not being sufficiently supportive of these parents). You might also want to talk about your efforts to push for after care.

I also told her that you had worked closely with Dodd and Kennedy and Jeffords. She might ask you about the idea of government subsidies for kids who are eligible under federal poverty guidelines.

A subtext of her story may be that you were working very hard on many of these issues when the public (e.g. press) was unaware of your role. My hope is that the story of your involvement on child care will help flesh out your record.

Included in this briefing book are:

1) The latest statistics on the Administration's child care efforts
2) News accounts of some of your visits to child care facilities in New York during the past year
3) A couple of speeches/columns you've done on child care

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION
MAKING CHILD CARE BETTER, SAFER, AND MORE AFFORDABLE FOR AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES

January 27, 2000

President Clinton's FY 2001 budget includes a comprehensive child care initiative to address the struggles our nation's working parents face in finding child care they can afford, trust and rely on. Through unprecedented tax relief and subsidy support, the President's balanced budget includes a package of proposals to help working families pay for child care, improve the safety and quality of care, expand after-school programs and promote early learning.

Today More Than Ever, Working Families Struggle with Child Care. The number of children with parents who work outside of the home is higher than ever before. In 1996, three out of four mothers with young children worked outside of the home, compared to one in four in 1965. Additionally, studies have shown that that child care expenses are often the second or third largest item in a low-income working family's household budget. During the Clinton-Gore Administration, funding for child care has more than doubled. Still, many eligible children do not receive assistance. In FY 1999, states provided child care assistance to approximately 1.75 million children, or only 12 percent of the roughly 15 million low-income children eligible for assistance under federal law.

The President's Initiative Significantly Expands Access to Quality, Affordable Child Care and Early Learning Programs by:

Helping Over 8 Million Families Pay Child Care Expenses. The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) provides tax relief to those who, in order to work, pay for the care of a child under 13 or for a disabled dependent or spouse. The President's proposals, which cost \$30 billion over 10 years, broaden this tax relief and will help over 8 million families pay their child care expenses by 1) making the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit refundable for the first time; 2) increasing the level of the credit; and 3) extending the credit to parents who stay at home with their children.

- **Making the Credit Refundable for Nearly Two Million Working Parents.** Under current law, a typical family of four with an income under \$25,000 has no tax liability and therefore is ineligible for relief from their often significant child care costs. Many such families earn too little to claim the credit but too much to get the full benefit of child care subsidies. To help these families, the President proposes to make the CDCTC refundable for the first time -- so that families with no tax liability can receive up to \$2,400 to help offset the cost of child care. For example, a single mother who has one child, earns an annual salary of \$15,000, and spends about \$2,400 per year on child care, will receive a tax credit of \$1,200, an increase of \$817 over current law. This proposal will assist nearly two million families.

- **Increasing the Child Care Tax Credit for 4.4 Million Working Families.** For families earning up to \$60,000, the President proposes to increase the maximum level of the CDCTC from 30 percent to 50 percent boosting the amount of allowable child care expenses a family can claim. This will provide an average additional tax cut of \$249 for these families and eliminate tax liability for nearly all families with incomes below 200 percent of poverty that claim the maximum allowable child care expenses. Under this proposal, a family of four with an annual salary of $35,000, and child care expenses of $3,100, would receive a tax credit of $1,395 -- an increase of $775 over current law. This expansion proposal will help over four million working families pay for child care.

- **Providing Tax Relief to Nearly 2 Million Parents Who Stay at Home.** The President will also propose enabling parents who stay at home with children under age one to take advantage of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by claiming assumed child care expenses of $500. This proposal will provide an average tax cut of $154, benefiting almost two million parents.

Proposing the Largest Head Start Expansion in History. The President's budget boosts funding for Head Start by $1 billion – the largest funding increase ever proposed for the program -- to provide Head Start and Early Head Start slots to approximately 950,000 children, nearing the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002. Head Start is our nation's premier early childhood development program preparing low-income children for a lifetime of learning and development by providing early, continuous and comprehensive child development and family support services. Early Head Start, created by the Clinton-Gore Administration in 1994, brings Head Start's successful comprehensive services to families with children ages zero to three and to pregnant women, and works to enhance children's overall development and enable parents to be better caregivers of and teachers to their children. Since 1993, this Administration has already boosted funding for Head Start by 90 percent.

Helping Low-Income Families Afford Child Care. The President's budget boosts the Child Care and Development Block Grant by $817 million in FY 2001, enabling the program to provide child care subsidies to nearly 150,000 more children next year. These new funds, combined with the child care funds provided in welfare reform, will enable the program to serve over 2.2 million children in 2001, an increase of nearly one million since 1997. The block grant is part of the Child Care and Development Fund, the primary federal subsidy program that helps families pay for child care, thereby enabling low-income parents to work. Today, millions of families who are eligible for assistance with their child care costs do not receive any help; in 1999, only about 12 percent of the 15 million low-income children eligible for assistance under federal law received subsidies.

Doubling After-School to Help Every Child in Every Failing School Meet High Standards. The President's budget includes $1 billion to expand after-school and summer school for students across the nation – more than doubling the $453 million enacted last year, and representing the largest expansion ever proposed. With this increase, the program can provide every child in every failing school with the chance to participate in quality extended learning programs and work toward higher academic standards. Studies have shown that extended learning programs such as after-school and summer school help improve student achievement in reading and math, as well as increase student safety and reduce juvenile crime. Under the President's proposal, the number of children served will nearly triple, from 850,000 to 2.5 million children.

Promoting Early Learning. To ensure that children have access to early childhood programs that promote their cognitive development, the President's budget includes $3 billion over five years for the Early Learning Fund to help improve child care quality and early childhood education for children under five years old. The Early Learning Fund will provide community grants for activities that foster cognitive development, improve child care quality and promote readiness for school. Resources could be used to help child care providers get training or certification, facilitate licensing or accreditation of child care centers, and reduce child-to-staff ratios -- factors associated with positive developmental outcomes for young children.

Supporting High-Quality Early Childhood Educators. The President's budget includes $30 million to ensure that well-trained professionals are teaching our young children. We know that the training and education of early childhood educators and caregivers are directly related to the quality of the early education they provide, and the quality of their service, in turn, is directly related to children's readiness for school. As a result, early childhood educators with more education and training provide the higher-quality language stimulation and literacy experiences that are critical for children's success in schools. The Early Childhood Professional Development initiative will provide competitive grants to local partnerships that provide professional development for teachers such as universities, local school districts that provide pre-school, and child care providers such as Head Start. The initiative would focus on equipping early childhood educators with the tools they need to help children develop the language and literacy skills that are the foundations for academic success.

Encouraging the Pursuit of Higher Education by Offering College Campus Based Child Care. To enable low-income parents to pursue higher education, the President's budget includes $15 million – a $10 million increase over last year's funding level – to provide an additional 150 college campuses with grants to support the establishment or expansion of child care services. States may also use a share of the Child Care and Development Block Grant for this purpose.

Creating New Child Care Tax Incentives for Businesses. In his budget, President Clinton will also propose a new tax credit for businesses that provide child care services for their employees. These services could include: building or expanding child care facilities, operating existing facilities, training child care workers, or providing child care resource and referral services. The credit covers 25 percent of qualified costs (and 10 percent of resource and referral service expenses), but may not exceed $150,000 per year per business. This tax credit costs $1.4 billion over 10 years.

TALKING IT OVER

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

February 2, 2000

Last week, in his final State of the Union address, the President called for a "21st-century revolution to reward work and strengthen families, by giving every parent the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all -- raising children."

One of the tools families need is trustworthy, reliable and affordable child care that offers working parents peace of mind and gives their children quality opportunities to learn and grow in the crucial early years of their lives.

When I first began to study child development nearly three decades ago, one in four children had mothers who worked outside their home. Today, that number has tripled. Many families spend as much as a quarter of their income on child care -- the second or third largest item in a low-income family's household budget.

Ever since my husband took office, I have worked with him to expand support for child care -- by offering more help for both working and stay-at-home parents. We held White House conferences on children's developmental needs, and used the best research available for our child care recommendations. We have made progress, working with Congress to more than double funding for child care. But there are many eligible families who still do not receive the assistance they need.

Last year, states provided child care assistance to just 12 percent of the roughly 15 million who qualified for help, leaving the vast majority to fend for themselves. Too many of these families find themselves caught in the middle between work and home -- forced to cobble together child care arrangements that, far from being stimulating and nurturing for their children, are barely satisfactory, and may even be unsafe.

I know that a country as great as ours, in the midst of the longest economic expansion in history, does not need to settle for unsatisfactory or unsafe care for its children. We can do better, and the proposals the President made would -- without undermining our commitment to a balanced budget -- move us closer to the day when working parents can feel confident and secure that their children are receiving the best care possible.

In last week's speech, the President called on Congress to pass a comprehensive child care initiative, extending the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, and helping over 8 million families cover their child care expenses.

A typical family of four with an income under $25,000 has no tax liability, and therefore, under current law, is not eligible for child care credits. In order to help low-income families, the proposal would make the child care tax credit refundable, allowing nearly 2 million families to receive up to $2,400 a year to help offset their child care costs. Under this plan, a single mother with one child, earning an annual salary of $15,000, and spending about $2,400 on child care, would receive a refund of $1,200.

For middle- and low-income families -- those who earn up to $60,000 a year -- our proposal would increase the maximum credit to 50 percent of child care expenses. Under this proposal, a family of four with an annual salary of $35,000 and child care expenses of $3,100 would qualify for a tax credit of $1,395 -- nearly $800 more than they would receive under current law.

Additionally, if our plan is enacted, nearly 2 million parents who choose to stay at home to care for their children will be entitled to a tax credit.

The President also proposed a new tax credit for businesses that provide child care services for their employees. Companies that build or expand child care facilities, operate existing centers, train child care workers, or provide child care resource and referral services would qualify.

Tax credits are not the only tool we have to improve the quality and availability of child care for America's working families. The proposed budget includes a $1 billion increase in funding for Head Start -- the largest expansion ever of this successful early childhood program -- offering nearly 1 million low-income, preschool children the preparation they need to be ready for a lifetime of learning when they start school.

Our plan would also establish an Early Learning Trust Fund, specifically targeted to improving the quality of our nation's child care and early childhood education. If approved by Congress, this fund would help child care providers get training or certification, facilitate licensing or accreditation of child care centers, reduce child-to-staff ratios, and boost efforts to improve every child's literacy and language skills. In addition, the budget includes a new program to help early childhood educators acquire the education and skills they need to do their jobs better.

Finally, the proposed budget would help to cover the costs of child care for nearly 2.2 million low-income children, more than double funding for after-school and summer school programs, and support the establishment or expansion of child care centers on college campuses.

If we truly value family and work, the time is right for Congress to pass this plan. Helping parents find quality, affordable child care that will help prepare their children for success in school is not a partisan issue. America's families -- rich or poor, Democrat or Republican -- want and deserve nothing less.

To find out more about Hillary Rodham Clinton and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

71ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

December 7, 1999, Tuesday, PM cycle

SECTION: Political News

LENGTH: 469 words

HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton: Expand family leave

BYLINE: By BETH J. HARPAZ, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: NEW YORK

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton, recalling her own travails as a working mom, today promised to fight to expand the Family and Medical Leave Act.

"We have to make it possible for people to be both effective workers and the best parents they can be," she said at a "New York Women for Hillary" breakfast fund-raiser in a Manhattan hotel. "There isn't any more important issue."

Mrs. Clinton recalled one morning when she was practicing law in Arkansas and had to be in court, but her babysitter called in sick and her daughter Chelsea woke up feeling ill also.

"After a few frantic phone calls, I could find a friend to take care of Chelsea while I was in court, but think of the countless women who don't have those options," she said.

Under the Family and Medical Leave Act, which President Clinton signed into law in 1993, parents are entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave with the guarantee of job protection. Since the act was passed, some 24 million people have used some or all of the allowed 12 weeks to care for a new baby or other family member.

"I had seen firsthand how difficult it was in my own life as well as in the lives of so many of my friends to try to walk that line, to do what we needed to do to be absolutely the best parent we needed to be and still fulfill our responsiblities at work," Mrs. Clinton said. "Every one of us could talk about the times when our child care system fell apart."

The family leave law currently applies to businesses with 50 or more employees. Mrs. Clinton supports lowering the threshold to businesses with 25 employees. Republicans in Congress oppose the proposed change to the law on the grounds that it could harm small businesses.

"Expanding family and medical leave is something I will champion in the Senate," she said, adding a reference to her likely Republican opponent in the Senate race, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani: "I want to know whether we're just going to have another Republican in the Senate who will stand with the Republicans and block such a proposal or whether he'll stand on behalf of New York's families."

Giuliani's campaign director, Bruce Teitelbaum, did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

About 1,000 people attended the fund-raiser. No figure was given for the amount of money raised, but tickets ranged in price from $125 to $1,000.

The audience included U.S. Reps. Carolyn Maloney and Nita Lowey, actress Candace Bergen, Public Advocate Mark Green, along with hundreds of career women and stay-at-home moms.'

Lynne Algrant, who runs a non-profit organization and brought her 4-month-old daughter to the event, said the first lady's comments hit home. "I'm a new working mom trying to juggle working and family," she said. "I thought I knew what to expect, but I didn't have a clue."

GRAPHIC: AP Photo

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 8, 1999

97TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

AP Online

September 23, 1999; Thursday 00:59 Eastern Time

SECTION: Financial pages

LENGTH: 676 words

HEADLINE: Businesses Funding Back-Up Daycare

BYLINE: MAGGIE JACKSON

DATELINE: NEW YORK

BODY:

Janette Hartman once had few options when her 4-year-old daughter's caregiver fell sick or went away. Mostly, she just ended up staying home.

But a year ago, her employer, the catalog retailer Lands' End, created a backup day care center, where children can go if a sitter is ill, their school has a snow day or if the child is sick and can't go to group day care. That solution proved a godsend to Ms. Hartman.

A hot trend in child care, backup care is growing fast. Thirteen percent of employers now provide it, up from 5 percent in 1993, according to Hewitt & Associates consultants.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton praised the idea Wednesday after touring a Manhattan backup center used by more than 30 companies, from J. P. Morgan to Sony Music Entertainment.

She stood for a minute watching 13-month-old triplets who'd been dropped off that morning because their father their primary caregiver was busy with the family's move to a new house.

''This fills a real need that exists in the child care world,'' Mrs. Clinton told a gathering of business leaders and work-family researchers. ''Productivity goes up and turnover goes down when employees know that their child is well taken care of.''

The center she visited is run by ChildrenFirst Inc., a Boston-based company that runs 18 backup programs nationwide, all for well children. A large day care chain, Bright Horizons Family Solutions, runs 38 backup centers, including some that take mildly ill children. Fourteen of those opened in the last year.

Along with helping retain workers, companies find that it's often cheaper to buy slots in a backup center that many employees take turns using, than to build a costly day care center for just a few children.

Fees vary, but it generally costs companies with 300 or fewer employees $28,000 a year and up to buy a slot at a ChildrenFirst center. Building an on-site child care center can cost millions, an impossible price tag for small companies.

Half of ChildrenFirst's corporate clients charge their employees nothing for the care, while half charge a nominal $10 to $20 a day.

Then, there are the staff hours saved.

Chase Manhattan Bank, one of the pioneers in the field, says it saved $820,000 in reduced absenteeism in 1996 alone by offering backup care for its New York employees.

Now the bank has three of its own centers nationwide and plans to add eight more by 2001. Some of the centers also offer separate rooms for mildly ill children, who can't attend group care.

In addition to offering 20 free days a year of backup care, the company offers eight extra weeks to workers returning after the birth or adoption of a child.

''It's a critical juncture for people,'' said Christine Fossaceca, work-life director at Chase. ''They're making a decision about whether to return to work.''

Backup care saved Susan Deland from quitting her job as a lending officer at J.P. Morgan. Last spring as her maternity leave was ending, she called to resign because she couldn't find a good nanny.

But when her employer offered a spot for her son at a backup center near her work, she was able to spend six weeks finding a nanny she loved.

While initially created in the early 1990s by law firms for top attorneys, backup care is increasingly offered to lower level workers.

''The trend is to offer the situation in manufacturing or call centers, where employees also have child care that breaks down a lot,'' said Roger Brown, president of Bright Horizons.

Janette Hartman, who takes telephone orders for Lands' End, says the company's backup center in Dodgeville, Wis. provides the peace of mind she needs to continue working.

''I know I don't have to worry, because the backup center is there,'' she said in a telephone interview. ''Now I don't have anxiety over what's going to happen to my child.''

(PROFILE

(CO:Lands End Inc; TS:LE; IG:RTS;)

109TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Business Wire

September 22, 1999, Wednesday

DISTRIBUTION: Business Editors & Lifestyle Writers

LENGTH: 824 words

HEADLINE: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Helps Launch ChildrenFirst Backup Child Care Center

DATELINE: NEW YORK

BODY:

Sept. 22, 1999--

Corporate Child Care in New York City Takes a Big Step Forward

Stressing the link between a family-friendly workplace and enhanced employee commitment, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton today helped launch New York's newest corporate backup child care facility. ChildrenFirst at 600 Fifth Avenue will provide backup child care to the employees of a consortium of 34 Manhattan-based companies, with more to be added.

Mrs. Clinton, a lifelong advocate for children, serves as Chair of the Children's Defense Fund, a national organization dedicated to improving children's lives. As First Lady of the United States, she organized the first White House Conference on Child Care, and the first White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning, leading to increased national attention for these vital issues. She has advocated significant increases in national support for safe and affordable childcare and after school care.

Mrs. Clinton toured the center and had an opportunity to interact with the children, who gave her a hand-made book with their hopes for the millennium. The round table discussion this morning included remarks by Mrs. Clinton and Rosemary Jordano, president and CEO of Boston-based ChildrenFirst Inc. Douglas Atkin, President and CEO of Instinet Corporation and Andrea Jung, President and COO of Avon Products, Inc., along with parents from J.P. Morgan and Equitable.

Rosemary Jordano, who founded ChildrenFirst in 1992, explained that the breakdown of an employee's primary care system directly affects the corporate bottom line. "Most companies recognize that employees are more productive when they have quality support systems to help them balance work-life issues," said Jordano. "When an employee's babysitter is ill, or the nanny suddenly gives notice, the result is absenteeism, tardiness and reduced productivity, costing US companies an estimated $ 3 billion dollars annually. By partnering with corporations, ChildrenFirst is uniquely positioned to set the standards for what quality care looks like for children."

ChildrenFirst centers are designed to provide parents and their children with the highest quality care. The centers serve children from twelve weeks through twelve years, with a range of developmentally appropriate activities and materials. Staff are early childhood professionals, all center directors have earned master's degrees. All eligible ChildrenFirst backup child care centers are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The overwhelming success of the previous Rockefeller Center location led to a need to build a larger center to accommodate a host of new clients. Founding ChildrenFirst clients at this location include: Arthur Andersen LLP; The Conde Nast Publications Inc.; Deutsche Bank; The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S.; Ernst & Young LLP; J.P. Morgan & Co. Incorporated; Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co.; National Broadcasting Company, Inc.; PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP; Sony Music Entertainment, Inc. Three clients that moved to other ChildrenFirst locations in NYC are Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation, and Swiss Bank (now UBS).

The new charter clients joining the program include: Allen & Co.; Alliance Capital Management; Avon Products, Inc.; Credit Suisse Asset Management; Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation; Chubb Group of Insurance Companies; Christie's Inc.; DE Shaw & Co.; The Estee Lauder Companies Inc.; The Seagram Company LTD; Lazard Freres & Co. LLC; Lifetime Television; Mayer Brown & Platt; Mitchell Madison Group; National Basketball Association; Robinson Lerer & Montgomery; Showtime Networks Inc.; Simon & Schuster; Thelen Reid & Priest LLP; Viacom Inc./MTV Networks; Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP; Wachtel, Lipton, Rosen & Katz; Willkie Farr & Gallagher; and Young & Rubicam.

ChildrenFirst Inc. is the national leader in corporate backup child care, servicing businesses with as few as 20 to as many as 10,000 employees. Each center may provide care to a single client or a consortium of companies. In addition to the ten New York City locations, there are an additional eight centers located in Boston, Chicago, Jersey City, Minneapolis, Los Angeles and San Francisco, serving such varied companies as Gillette, Pfizer Inc., Citigroup, Sara Lee, American Express, Chevron, and Arco. The centers had nearly 50,000 child visits in 1998.

CONTACT: Moon Public Relations for ChildrenFirst, New York
Nancy Moon 212-989-7530
or
Mark Vasu 617-646-7049

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: September 23, 1999

213TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press

April 12, 1999, Monday, AM cycle

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 405 words

HEADLINE: Study finds hazards common at child care facilities

BYLINE: By LAURA MECKLER, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Two in three child care facilities surveyed by a federal consumer safety agency had safety hazards that put children at risk. The problems ranged from playgrounds without proper padding to loops on window blind cords.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission surveyed 220 facilities, including centers run by the federal government, for-profit and nonprofit companies, along with private homes that provide child care.

The survey was released Monday by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who visited a local child care center to highlight parents' troubles with child care and to advocate more federal money to help parents pay for care.

The survey looked for eight hazards that relate to the products regulated by the commission. States are responsible for regulating the safety of child care centers, and these particular hazards may not be barred by law in many states. But the commission hopes to alert parents and centers to the potential dangers, said spokesman Russ Rader.

"This is not a 'gotcha' situation where we're saying these child care providers are bad," Rader said. "We're simply pointing out some safety areas where even the best parents or child care providers may not be aware there's a problem."

The commission works with manufacturers to correct these problems but wants parents and child care providers to look for them, too.

Two-thirds of the facilities surveyed had at least one of the eight hazards. Specifically, the survey found:

-At four in 10 facilities, children were wearing clothing with drawstrings around their necks, which can catch on objects and strangle a child.

-One in four centers had loops on window blind cords that can strangle a child.

-One in four did not have safe playground surfacing, meaning if children fall off playground equipment they could be seriously injured when hitting a hard surface. Grass, for instance, is too hard a surface. Each year, there are 90,000 playground-related injuries each year to children under age 6, many of which involve falls, the commission said.

-One in five facilities had cribs with soft bedding, which can suffocate infants. Each year, up to 900 babies who die from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome may have suffocated on soft bedding.

-Child safety gates were not used where needed at 13 percent of facilities.

The centers surveyed were randomly selected but not necessarily reflective of the nation as a whole, Rader said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 12, 1999

NEEDS TO BE EDITED

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS TO JUST US KIDS CHILD CARE
APRIL 12, 1999

Thank you so much. Well, I am delighted to be part of this event. And I want to thank all the children who are here who have been so good. And I promise that I will be quite fast and you can get back to a lot more fun than just listening to all of us talk. But I did want to thank everyone who is here and is a part of this model center and part of the announcement that we are making this morning. Starting with our Attorney General and our Deputy Attorney General, I want to thank Janet Reno and Eric Holder for their leadership. They understand that law enforcement is a much broader concept than just understanding how to punish and apprehend criminals but they do understand clearly, as Cynthia just said, that what we need to do is to build up the kind of country we are by taking care of our children so that we try to prevent problems before they occur. I want to thank Cynthia for her introduction and also her commitment to government **(inaudible)** service.

I am also delighted that Tate Barren, the Administrator of General Services Administration, is here. He's been a long time friend of mine and someone who cares deeply about the quality of life within our government buildings, including taking care of our children. I want to thank Pam Simmons, the Director of Just Us Kids, it took me awhile to get Just Us Kids. I finally got it, get it justice? Pam has been involved with caring for the children of government employees for a number of years and does an excellent job. And I particularly want to thank our two members of Congress who are here, Congressman Ben Cardin from Maryland is here. And Ben is a long time and stalwart supporter of the needs of families, particularly working families, which includes child care, health care, and other necessities. And Senator Chris Dodd, who has been the champion of child care legislation for many many years. And along with some colleagues of his, they worked successfully to obtain some money earmarked for child care in the recent budget resolution. And I am always glad to be anywhere with Ann Brown because I know that when Ann shows up things happen. And I've been with Ann on other occasions in the last several years and know first hand that her devotion to consumer product safety and particularly to protecting children from faulty or inadequate consumer products is one that runs very deeply with her.

We're here to highlight two important new efforts that are really designed to empower parents. In all the work I have done about child care, for more than 25 years now, much of it comes down to trying to create the issues in which parents can be more empowered to demand the kind of child care, the quality, affordable child care that they need for their children. Because parents could really do more to drive the child care market than they realize. And I think anything we can do to empower parents and enable them to raise their voices will help us to do a better job on that.

And that's really what you were hearing when Carol Blackman was talking about how to use the media and how to use the new forms of media, like the Internet, in combination to make it possible for parents to realize they have a lot to contribute. And I'll tell you more about that in a minute. But first let me thank the Consumer Product Safety Commission for this vital study which they completed, going into the child care centers seeing first hand. And as Ann often says this is not a blame game. This is an information and empowerment effort. If you find something wrong in a child care center that doesn't mean that people are deliberately doing it, they just don't know the impact. And we here, in announcing this study and trying to convey as broadly as possible, are trying to make it clear to parents and child care centers alike, here's what you need to do to make your facility safer.

And it's really kind of simple. The Commission produced this child care safety check list for parents and care givers to identify and correct hidden hazards in child care facilities and in the home, anywhere children spend a lot of time. So you can go through this and you can see what needs to be done about cribs or soft bedding or playground surfacing or maintenance or safety gauges, the kinds of issues that you may not notice at first. I have to say that when Ann brought to my attention clothing draw strings that was new to me. I can remember-I can't even count all the times I have taken a draw string and tightened it up around a child's neck so the child wouldn't get cold. And, you know, I didn't know until today that was something that could be a hazard to children.

So I think we are really on the right track by getting this information out through the Consumer Product Safety Commission under Ann's leadership. And I am also pleased that Ann is partnering with other government agencies. For instance, GSA will be making sure that the child care facilities under their supervision will have these materials right away so that I hope every child care center that GSA is responsible for will get one of these **(inaudible)** put on the website, right Ann, so that it can be accessed easily.

Also, I am pleased to announce that by Mother's Day, GSA will connect all of its child care facilities to the Internet so that care givers can receive up to the minute safety notices and communicate with parents. So I want to commend GSA under Dave Barren's leadership. I also want to commend and thank Lifetime Television. Carole briefly outlined for you all that they are doing on Lifetime and those 70 million plus viewers who turn into Lifetime are going to be given the opportunity to learn more about what they can do to help create a bigger supply, a more affordable supply of quality child care. I was listening to Carole when she was talking about the documentary and perhaps, Congressman Cardin and Senator Dodd, we could get a special showing on the Hill for staff members and Congressional members to actually see this. Maybe if we show it several times so that people who didn't get it the first time could come later. Because I think that the message does have to get across that this is a daily struggle for so many parents.

Lifetime will be hosting a series of events around the country that will engage parents in this discussion. And **(inaudible)** I'm pleased to announce that GSA will be partnering with Lifetime and use its child care settings around the country as venues for these dialogues. This is a good way for the private sector and the public sector to work together on behalf of an issue that is not a partisan issue but one that is truly a part of who we are as Americans. But we know that in spite of these good efforts from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, from Lifetime, from GSA, in spite of the good programs that we have here of leadership and the Justice Department and very qualified child care providers, like Pam Simmons, there is a need for greater federal investment in child care.

And both the President and I believe strongly that more must be done at the federal level to make child care better, safer and more affordable for America's working families. That is why the President had included in his budget request significant new investments in child care to help working families pay for child care, build a good supply of after school programs, improve the safety and quality of care and promote early learning. Central to the President's plan is a provision to help low income working families pay for child care. Just think of this, today these families spend up to 25% of their income on child care. And there is just not enough subsidized care and puts parents in a terrible dilemma, they need to work.

You know, it's one thing to say, "Well, maybe a parent could get by on one salary". But in many instances that is not possible and in too many instances there is only one working parent in the home. So we have to do more to subsidize good quality child care. According to recent figures, 10 million families are eligible for federal subsidies yet only 1.25 million received support in 1997. So this is why I am so pleased that the Senate on leadership, Senators Dodd and Jeffers, and with strong bipartisan support, did recently approve significant new funding for child care subsidies to help low income families pay for child care. I hope that the entire Congress will take this step, it would make such a difference.

So let me again thank everyone who has enabled us to come to this beautiful to see first hand what a quality center looks like, to see beautiful children who are active and energetic, curious and to know that this is what we want for all the children of America. It does however come down to what Carole Black said, it comes down to empowering parents and I want to thank Carole for using the power of the media to get this message across. And also for linking that message on the media to actual votes in elections. I hope all the Presidential candidates will participate in Lifetime's forum. And I hope that the voting guides that Lifetime will create will be used by parents across the country to make important decisions about who represents them in Congress and who represents them in the state that they live so that these people will be on record as to whether or not they want to put their votes behind programs that will enable more parents to feel the kind of security that Cynthia described to us, while they are at work doing what they need to do for themselves, their families and I would argue for our country. Thank you very much.

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

February 3, 1999, Wednesday, PM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 547 words

HEADLINE: First lady spotlights working moms in budget proposal

BYLINE: CHELSEA J. CARTER, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: NEW YORK

BODY:

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton put the spotlight on working moms during a visit to Brooklyn, highlighting initiatives in the president's $ 1.77 trillion budget that would help women balance work with caring for children and aging parents.

"The president unveiled a balanced budget that puts families first through a package of initiatives that will help parents struggling to meet their responsibilities to their jobs and even more important, to their families," Mrs. Clinton told 300 people gathered Tuesday at a YMCA in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood.

In a round-table discussion, Mrs. Clinton heard from women struggling to balance their jobs with caring for children or elderly parents.

Angelina Charriez told Mrs. Clinton that her 67-year-old mother suffered from a mental ailment and could not take care for herself.

"We almost lost our home. We lost our car because we couldn't make the payments. I can't work full time and take care of my mother and my child," she said as she wiped tears from her eyes.

Mrs. Clinton put her hand on Mrs. Charriez's shoulder and promised to follow up with her and the other women who spoke during the panel discussion.

The president's budget would invest $ 6.2 billion over five years - including $ 5.5 billion to provide a $ 1,000 tax credit - for families caring for disabled relatives, Mrs. Clinton said. The budget also includes $ 250 tax credits for stay-at-home parents caring for children under age 1.

Eileen Quinones, a 33-year-old single working mother, told Mrs. Clinton that she was unable to find child care for her 18-month-old toddler.

"Because of my income, I make too much money to qualify for subsidies and not enough money to pay for it myself," she said, struggling to hold back her tears.

The cheapest child care available costs $ 800 a month, Quinones said. As a result, she said, her baby stays with an aunt.

Mrs. Clinton said Ms. Quinones' problem was not unique.

"We have these very arbitrary rules about who can qualify for subsidies," Mrs. Clinton said. "One of the hopes I have is that with the president's budget ... you would be able to increase the limit of income to qualify (for child care subsidies)."

Mrs. Clinton's comment was met with a standing ovation.

Debbie O'Conner told Mrs. Clinton how she was forced to take time off work to care for her 16-year-old daughter, who had been injured in a car accident.

O'Conner said she was able to take the time off thanks to the Family and Medical Leave Act, which allows people to take time off work in emergencies and be guaranteed their jobs back.

President Clinton is calling for companies with more than 25 workers to participate in the act, which now only applies to companies with more than 50 workers.

"The president is proposing to extend the benefits of the family medical leave act to 10 million more Americans by covering workers in companies with 25 or more employees," said Mrs. Clinton. "It's not only a human moral reason, but his good business sense, because they now have an employee who will willingly work for them."

After spending about 1 hours with the mothers and their children, Mrs. Clinton headed for a Democratic National Committee dinner with the president at Manhattan's posh Le Cirque restaurant.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 3, 1999

Remarks by the First Lady at the Redbook Magazine "Mother & Shakers of 1998" Awards Ceremony
June 2, 1998
The White House
Washington, DC

We've come together today to salute eight extraordinary women who have made a very real difference in the lives of families in their own communities and across the nation. At our table during lunch, I learned a lot more about what some of these women have accomplished and I am just delighted that the country will learn more about what they have achieved because if we could take all of their achievements and put them together we would have a much better system of child care nationwide. Somebody who believes that and has worked with me to that end is my friend, Tipper Gore who is also with us and I'd like to acknowledge Tipper and ask her to please stand.

Tipper and I have spent a lot of time in the last years talking about our own children and also talking about children throughout our country and indeed the world. So for us to be able to acknowledge the accomplishments of all of you gives us a great deal of satisfaction, Whether it was establishing child care centers or setting up hotlines for parents or partnering with businesses or lobbying elected officials, you have been working in your own communities to promote child care and to move it to the forefront of the national agenda by giving working parents more choices and more opportunities to succeed at home and at work. It is important to pause once in a while to take measure of how far we've come and to honor those who've helped us get there so I want to commend Redbook for creating these mothers and shakers awards and for running the article on child care in its June issue, Kate, because I think that we still have some work to do in both raising public awareness and dispelling stereotypes about the difficult choices families face in finding the child care they need.

You've performed an important public service because you've helped to shine the spotlight on women who've worked diligently and often in the shadows to improve the lives of children and working families and help raise public awareness by providing parents with critical information about to find safe affordable child care.

Today as we anticipate the extraordinary possibilities of the next century it's a little hard to imagine what life was like for women living in America just a century ago: Certainly our life span was much shorter -- many of us would not be around at the age that we are. We would have lost those of us who have had children, many of the babies we birthed we would have seen some succumb to infectious diseases for which there were no cures or antibiotics or vaccinations and Redbook was first published nearly a century ago in 1903 and it has helped to chart the lives and the changes in the lives of American women back then.

Certainly our nation has under gone profound changes as more and more women have not only lived longer and survived childbirth, two major accomplishments of this century, but have themselves joined the workforce outside the home transforming their lives and the life of this nation forever. We saw a great move into the workforce as a result of World War II, and we saw the government, when it needed women to be part of the war effort, step in to provide child care so that those women could got to work.

We've made a lot of progress but of course we have a lot left to do. This country has a great economy right now, we are blessed with prosperity and much of that is because women are working. Women who are using their skills, their education, their talents in our workforce and creating not only better opportunities for themselves and their families but for the rest of us as well. We know that women make up almost half of the workforce and as a result we know that many children have to spend some or all of their day away from their parents in child care. We also know that we many single women who are raising their children themselves and are their sole support and have no choice but to work.

Now over the years I, like many of you, have spent many many hours talking to working mothers. First when I myself was a working mom and sitting around kitchen tables or in the bleachers at sporting events or at playgrounds or in my office I found that the uppermost issue on most working mothers minds was child care and the dilemma that we have all lived with that is raised by the conflict between family and work and the need for all of us to do a better job in balancing those competing demands. What we tried to do was to take that dialogue that conversation that every one of has on our own and take it out of the kitchens and out from around the water coolers and out from the supermarket aisles where I often had it, and put it into the national arena.

That's why the President and I hosted the first ever White House Conference on Child Care last year as well as the Conference on Early Childhood Development. We knew from the work the scientists were doing how critical the first three years are to a child's intellectual and emotional growth and we also knew how difficult it is for many parents to feel that they were doing right both by their jobs which put food on the table and by their children who are the most important people in their lives, Now thanks to you we have made child care a national priority and we have presented legislation to the Congress.

As you know the President has proposed a historic investment in child care, over 20 million dollars over the next five years that will make child care more affordable to America's working parents. It will also expand opportunities to promote early learning and child development. It will also ensure greater safety and quality enhance efforts for background checks help parents and schools establish after school programs in their communities. But one of the things that I have found is that often times when a President announces something as he did in the State of the Union and then follows it up with legislation, many Americans think the work is over . I was recently with Congresswoman Tausher in her district in California and we had a panel discussion in a wonderful facility a school that had an added-on building where they were running a very good after school program and the Congresswoman and I were sitting with experts from the community and people who had supported this program and the questions and the comments were all assuming that the Presidents plan was going to get through the Congress we heard from the Superintendent who said "You know, we'll sure be able to use that money because we're still not reaching all of our students". We heard from a teacher who said "You know, I'm so excited that the federal government is finally going to help us because we don't have the facilities we need in our poor areas of this county for after-school care". And you know the Congresswoman and I were somewhat surprised because of course we know how difficult it is to get legislation like this through in the current Congress and so we have to re-instill a sense of urgency in America's working families, and teachers and advocates and business leaders who have applauded this commitment as being not only good for children and families but good for America. So you are helping us to get that word out by coming together to honor people who have been on the front lines doing the work that needs to be done.

But I have to ask you all of you who are hear at this lunch to do what you can to make sure that this critical issue stays on America's agenda. That we don't have a sigh of relief throughout the country because people somehow think that since the President proposed this legislation it's going to necessarily be passed and implemented. The President is committed to continuing to fight for his proposal to make child care better, safer, more affordable. There are good child care bills on both sides of the aisle. Child care should not be a partisan issue we are not talking about taking care of democratic or republican or independent children we are talking about taking care of American children and we have to continue to push for significant legislation this year on behalf of our children.

We have a related issue that is connected to this one and that is the tobacco legislation that is currently in the Congress. We have an opportunity to reach agreement on historic legislation to save our children from the dangers of smoking. There are obviously difficult issues left unresolved but this is also a challenge to what kind of nation were going to be and how much care concern and protection we are going to extend our youngest citizens. Congress should act quickly to pass tobacco legislation and I hope that every citizen will make their voices heard on this important issue as well. Because we have an opportunity when it comes to the President's education reform agenda, when it comes to his child care legislation when it comes to his proposal to try and do what we can to end teenage smoking. We have an opportunity to really continue to move forward on the American agenda for America's children but I am under no illusions that this will be an easy effort, there are many forces arrayed against these pieces of the President's agenda for reasons that I think have very little to do with the well being and future prospects of our children. So I hope that we will take the energy that is in this room and take the example that we will hear more about that is set by each of our honorees and redouble our own efforts on behalf of doing what we can to bring about significant child care legislation in this session of Congress.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release January 7, 1998

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY
AT CHILD CARE ANNOUNCEMENT

The East Room

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much. I am delighted to welcome all of you to the White House. I want to thank Tipper Gore for that introduction, but more than that, for her lifelong commitment to children.

I want to thank the children who walked in with us. You represent millions and millions of other children. And you did a wonderful job, and I think we should applaud for you. (Applause.)

I am pleased that as I look around this East Room, which has seen so many important events in our nation's history, to see so many friends and advocates of our nation's children and families who have helped push child care to the forefront of America's agenda.

Today, we join together with the President in taking this historic step forward for America's children, for our working families, and for our country. We have much to be thankful for in this new year when it comes to the well-being of our children. Immunization rates are the highest in our history. Infant mortality is at an all-time low. And teen pregnancy is down. The President signed the largest expansion of health care coverage in over 30 years to provide health insurance for millions more of our nation's children. And thanks to the adoption bill recently signed by the President, more kids will have a shot at growing up in safe and loving homes.

This administration is also helping parents make the choices that are right for their families, whether that means working or staying home to care for their own children. From the $500 per child tax credit for families with children, to the Earned Income Tax Credit that lifts millions of working families out of poverty, we are now providing as a nation greater resources and real choices for America's parents.

Today, however, more of America's parents are working, by choice or by necessity. More than ever, parents rely on child care and after-school programs to care for their children for part of the day. We all have a stake in making sure that every child in care is safe and nurtured. This is part of America's unfinished business, because while we've made important progress in strengthening child care in this country, it still fails too many of our children and working parents.

I've worked on children's issues, as many of you have, for more years than I care to remember. I've been privileged to travel around our country, and indeed the world, visiting day care centers, talking to experts, talking to moms and dads. And I've seen firsthand what it means to a family when a child is well cared for while a mother or father has to work. And I've also seen the results of our failures to invest in our children at the most critical stages of their young lives.

I think we all understand how important child care is. But I believe that the daily struggle that many parents undergo to balance the demands of work and family is only now getting the attention it deserves. A few months ago with the help of many of you here, the President and I hosted a first-ever White House Conference on Child Care where we sought to turn the literally millions of private conversations that occur in homes and workplaces and supermarket aisles and after church and in every setting you can imagine -- turn those private conversations into a national dialogue on how to improve the availability, affordability, safety and quality of child care in America.

We were spurred by the recent scientific studies that were discussed at last year's White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning -- studies that confirm what every parent and grandparent has intuitively known, that the love and attention a child receives in that child's earliest years have a direct impact on the development of that child's brain and dramatically affect how children learn and develop over an entire lifetime.

As more of our nation's parents join the work force, and as we reform the welfare system which requires more of our nation's parents to join the work force, more children are spending their early years in child care. Today, over half the infants in this country are in day care and millions more school-age children have both parents or their only parent in the work force. And for many of those parents it is a struggle to find the child care they need. They hobble together relative care, family day care, center day care, anything they can imagine. And then, as their children get older, they have to worry about after-school care. For too long America's parents have struggled with too little information, too few choices, and too many worries.

Today, the President announced an historic child care proposal that seeks not only to give working parents the peace of mind they need and deserve, but also to give more of our children the kind of care they have to have. By helping working families pay for child care and improving the safety and quality of that care, this proposal truly will help parents better balance the demands of both home and family.

We are so privileged to live in a time when America is at peace and our economy is doing so well. It's also a time of enormous change and transition as more parents join the work force of the 21st century. Times like this present unique opportunities for action as well as challenges for leadership. And I believe that we should ensure, as we are attempting to do today, that no family in this time of rapid change falls through the cracks and no child is left behind. I believe the President's proposal will help us all move together in fulfilling our most important responsibility as individuals or as a nation -- the care and nurturing of our children.

And now it is my great pleasure to introduce our Vice President who has not only cared and nurtured, along with Tipper, his own children, but who has provided visionary leadership in improving the lives of America's families and children. Please welcome Vice President Al Gore. (Applause.)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release October 23, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND FIRST LADY
AT WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE

The East Room

10:00 A.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you and please be seated, and welcome to the White House Conference on Child Care. We are delighted to have with us in the East Room today members of Congress and the President's Cabinet, other officials from the government here in Washington. We have many elected officials from around the country and a great group of distinguished guests, including parents and experts in this important issue.

I also want to greet the hundreds of people gathered at the Departments of Agriculture, Labor, and Health and Human Services here in Washington, and to the thousands more who are joining us via satellite from the more than 100 sites at universities, hospitals and schools and businesses around the country.

I'd like to take a minute for all of us to think about what's happening in America this morning, and about what happens every morning. Parents are making the preparations to get to work, and those preparations include for most working families putting their children in the care of others. And most, even before they're out the door, are worrying about the logistics of the care that their children will receive. Some are even worrying about the safety or quality of that care.

There are many who are wondering whether they would get better quality care if they could pay more. Others are struggling to determine how they'll be able to afford next month's payment. And there are many who are in the work force who worry every day about how they'll care for their child and hold down the job that they need. Many parents will go to work, but have trouble focusing on work because they are worried about the sniffle that their daughter had or wondering how their son is faring.

And before we finish today, many more working parents will keep looking anxiously at the clock and will murmur into telephones the instructions that their children need after school, because their concerns don't end at the end of the day for their children's school time, because parents won't get home, so that they have to worry about what happens to keep their child safe and well occupied during those hours, as well.

These are just some of the questions that America's parents are asking themselves this morning and every morning that they prepare to go to work. Some parents ask themselves these questions in the afternoon, as they prepare to go to a swing shift, or at midnight as they start to work in one of the other jobs that are essential to keeping our economy strong.

Earlier this month I went to the University of Maryland to visit its center for young children, and as soon as I walked in the door I knew immediately it was the kind of place any of us would feel comfortable sending our children. I was, frankly, tempted to sign up myself. The walls were painted bright colors. There was lots of natural light. The workers there were creative, energetic and focused. Inside there were toys and crafts material. Outside there was a playground. And the children looked happy and occupied and full of energy.

Now, later I left the center to make a speech, and after the speech I opened the floor to questions. And the very first question was one that I thought summed up the dilemma that we face today. It came from a divorced mother who works full-time as a secretary at the university. To send her 4-year-old son to the center I had visited, she told me, would cost $6,000 a year, a quarter of her income, and she just couldn't do it. She had to do some real juggling to get the situation that she told me about. She was able to send her son to another less expensive center because she qualified for a scholarship, and she moved back in with her parents. Otherwise, she said, I would have to quit my job and go on welfare, and then I would have to worry about who would watch my child as I looked for a job.

She and so many women like her are the reason we are here today, and parents like Paula Broglio, who is here with us in the East Room, represent the millions of parents who worry about this important issue. Thirteen million American children spend all or some of their day being cared for by someone other than their parent. Yet, a recent national study found that child care at most centers in our country is, "poor to mediocre, with almost half of the infants and toddlers in rooms having less than minimal quality."

The study also concluded that fully 40 percent of the rooms serving infants in centers provided care that was of such poor quality as to jeopardize children's health, safety or development. A recent University of Colorado at Denver survey of child care in four states found only one in seven child care centers to be of good quality.

And quality care, as Paula and so many others know, when it is available is often financially out of reach. According to the 1995 census, families earning under $1,200 a month or less than $15,000 a year pay an average of 25 percent of their income for child care. Middle class families are hit hard as well. These families, earning up to $36,000 a year pay 12 percent of their income for child care.

The urgency of this conference today to focus on child care is heightened by the new scientific information we have about the emotional and intellectual development of young children. As we learned at the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development in April, what happens to a child in the earliest years affects how well he or she learns for a lifetime. With 45 percent of our children under the age of one in day care regularly, the issue of quality has tremendous bearing not just on individual lives, but on the future of our nation.

What's more, we now know from other studies that good care, whether given at home or in a day care setting, is good care. Done right, day care can be beneficial for children, and it is, therefore, worth our investment.

There's another reason that compels us to act, and that is demand. Demand for quality child care is growing, hastened on by our new economy, which has meant in the last 40 years dramatic changes in the American work force and in the American family's life. We know, for example, that half of all mothers with children under one year of age are working outside the home, and not only are more parents working, they are working longer hours. Also, with welfare reform we know that many more children will be needing quality child care.

So this conference is meant to start a conversation. It is only one day, but we hope it is a day that will renew our efforts to improve child care in America. We also hope it will involve our entire national community, because every aspect of our life together must be involved in looking for solutions. The federal government has a role to play, but so do state governments, business and labor, the nonprofit and religious communities, school systems, individual citizens, and especially parents.

We also know there are models of excellent child care around the country and we will hear about some of them -- like the military's day care system or the Smart Start Program in North Carolina. These initiatives provide examples of best practices and can energize and inspire us to do more.

We also know how important it is to ensure choice for parents in their selection of child care. One size fits all child care does not fit America's families. We don't work the same hours, we don't have the same economic or other kinds of pressures that we're dealing with, so we have to provide more options and we have to empower parents with good information to enable them to become good consumers. We also have to find ways that would make it easier and more affordable for parents who want to stay home with their children for some period of time to be able to afford to do so.

So I hope we approach this conversation with a certain fearlessness, with the same kind of energy that I see on the face of a three or four-year-old who's going about some task that he knows will occupy himself. We need to have the same kind of fearless approach, asking the hard questions and then listening to the answers.

There will be a lot of questions raised today -- questions about how to ensure the safety of every child in child care; how to do a better job of training and paying care-givers; how to encourage more employers to provide child care benefits of some variety to employees; how to make successful after-school programs more widely available; how to meet the needs of children with disabilities; how to better support parents who choose, often at significant cost, to stay home with their children; how to ensure that quality and affordability do not come at the expense of one another; and how to learn from the good models that we have in every community and state of our country; and, also, how do we leave ideology at the door and honestly address the real needs of America's families.

These are tough questions, and there are many more that we will be considering today. But we consider these questions at an opportune time. And we hope that this conference will spur the conversations around kitchen tables and water coolers and standing in supermarket aisles or at soccer games, or while going to or from work in the carpool -- whatever it takes to engage more Americans in this discussion, to make it clear that we want American parents to succeed at the most important task they have, caring for the next generation, and to be good workers who contribute to the economy and the quality of life that we enjoy in our country.

Now I'd like to address your attention to a video produced by New Screen Concepts, in association with the Families and Work Institute, entitled, "Why Should We Care about Child Care?"

(Video is shown.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Welcome to the White House. Thank you very much, Kathy Carliner, for your remarkable statement. And I thought you were very good in the film. Rob Reiner wants to give you a screen test. (Laughter.)

I am so happy to see all of you here. There are many people here who might well be introduced, but I think I must start with the people who are terribly important to whether we will be able to fully achieve our part of the great agenda we are going to lay out today -- the members of Congress who are here. And I'd like to call their names, and then when I finish, ask them all to stand.

Senator Herb Kohl, who sponsored legislation on child care; Senator Jack Reed; Congressman Bill Clay; Congressman Sandy Levin; Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro; Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey; Congresswoman Sue Kelly; Congresswoman Maxine Waters; Congressman Xavier Becerra; and Congressman Nick Lampson. Would the members of Congress who are here please stand. Thank you for coming. (Applause.)

I'd also like to thank my longtime friend -- Hillary and I have been friends of Governor Jim Hunt and his wife, Carolyn, who are here, for almost 20 years now. And I think Governor Romer is here or on his way. Mayor Clever, we're glad to see you. And John Sweeney, the head of the AFL-CIO, and others who have come to be with us today, I thank you very much.

This is a happy day at the White House, first for all the people in the administration and all those who have worked with them for months and months and months to help this day come to pass; and second, and even more important, from my point of view, this is a happy day because I have been listening to the First Lady talk about this for more than 25 years now -- (laughter) -- and it may be that I will finally be able to participate in at least a small fraction of what I have been told for a long time I should be doing. (Laughter.) And I say that in good humor, but also with great seriousness.

This is an anniversary of sorts for me. It was six years ago today as a newly-announced candidate for President that I went back to my alma mater at Georgetown and began a series of three speeches outlining what I thought America ought to look like in the 21st century and what I thought we would have to do to create a country in which everyone had an opportunity, everyone was expected to be a responsible citizen, and where we came together across all the lines that divide us into one community.

There are many things that are necessary for that to be done, but clearly two of them are, first, people in this country have to be able to succeed at work and at home in raising their children. And if we put people in the position of essentially having to chose one over the other, our country is going to be profoundly weakened. Obviously, if people are worried sick about their children, and they fail at work, it's not just individual firms, it's the economic fabric and strength of the country that is weakened. Far more important, if people fail at home, they have failed in our most important job, and our most solemn responsibility.

Second, we'll never be the kind of country we ought to be unless we believe that every child counts and that every child ought to have a chance to make the most of his or her God-given abilities.

That's why we're here today -- to examine where we are and what we still have to do. And what we still have to do is quite a lot, to make sure we live by what we believe when we say that all parents should be able to succeed at home and at work and that every child counts. No parent should ever have to chose between work and family; between earning a decent wage and caring for a child. Especially in this day and age when most parents work, nothing is more important, as you have just heard Kathy Carliner say, than finding child care that is affordable, accessible, and safe. It is America's next great frontier, in strengthening our families and our future.

As the Catholic Conference has noted, no government can love a child and no policy can substitute for a family's care. But there is much that we can do to help parents do their duty to their children. From my days as governor of Arkansas to my service as President, strengthening families has been a central goal of what I have worked on. I'm very proud that the first bill I had the opportunity to sign into law as President was the Family and Medical Leave Act, so that no parent has to choose between caring for a child or keeping a job when a family member is ill.

The expanded earned income tax credit helps to ensure that parents who work don't have to raise their children in poverty. No one who is out there working full-time with children should have to worry about that. Expanded Head Start programs are serving more families than ever before. We've collected record sums of child support enforcement. The historic balanced budget I signed this summer provides a $500-per-child tax credit and helps parents to pay for their children's college education through IRAs, expanded loans and Pell Grants, the HOPE Scholarship and other tax credits.

The Congress has before it now a program of Secretary Riley's called 21st Century Community Schools in which we ask for funds to help our states keep our schools open after classroom hours for children who have no place else to go and need that environment. We've also made some progress on child care. Since 1993, child care assistance has increased by 70 percent to help families pay for nearly a million children. Last year in the welfare reform debate, we fought and won the battle to expand child care assistance by $4 billion over the next six years, giving states an unprecedented opportunity to lead, to innovate in efforts to make child care more affordable.

But we have to do more. With more families required to rely on two incomes to make ends meet, with more single-parent families than ever, more young children are left in the care of others even in their earliest years. And as the First Lady said, we learned at our Conference on Early Childhood and the Brain, that's when children develop or fail to develop capacities that will shape the entire rest of their lives. It's also true that more and more schoolchildren are returning to empty homes after school.

The first thing we have to do is to make it possible for parents to spend time with their children whenever possible. That's why I hope the Congress will vote to expand the Family and Medical Leave law so that parents at least can take some time off for their children's medical appointments, teacher conferences and other basic duties. And I support flex-time laws that will allow workers to choose between receiving overtime in pay or in time off with their families.

But during those times when children can't be with their parents, they must get care that keeps them safe and that helps them to learn and grow. As we all know, too often that isn't the case. Too often, child care is unaffordable, inaccessible and, sometimes, even unsafe. The cost, as Hillary said, strains millions of family budgets. And government assistance meets just about a quarter of the need. Even for those who can afford it, sometimes good care is hard to find, as Kathy said in her remarks. Waiting lists sometimes takes months or years to move, forcing many parents to cobble together unstable arrangements.

The shortage of care puts older children at risk, as well. Five million of them between the ages of five and 14 are left to fend for themselves after school. And as they get older, that increases the chances that they'll be exposed to drugs, tobacco and crime.

Finally, studies have shown that too many child care facilities are literally unsafe. The tragedies that have befallen families who depended on child care continue to make headlines all across our nation. This conference is an important step forward in addressing all these issues. What we learn today should spur us on to find ways to help parents, all parents, afford safe, affordable, high quality child care, whether it's at home, a child care center or a neighbor's house.

In the coming months, our administration will develop a plan to be unveiled at the next State of the Union, to improve access and affordability, and to help to ensure the safety of child care in America. In the meantime, I want to announce four specific things we can do right now.

First, I'm asking Congress to establish a new scholarship fund for child care providers. (Applause.) Too many care-givers don't have the training they need to provide the best possible care. Those who do have training are rarely compensated with higher wages. The scholarship program I propose will help students earn their degrees as long as they remain in the child care field for at least a year, and it will ensure that care-givers who complete their training will receive a bonus or a raise.

Second, we have to weed out the people who have no business taking care of our children in the first place. I am transmitting to Congress the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact, which will make background checks on child care providers easier and more effective by eliminating state barriers to sharing criminal histories for this specific purpose. I urge Congress to pass and states to ratify this legislation.

Third, I've asked Secretary Rubin to oversee a working group on child care, composed primarily of business leaders working with labor and community representatives to find ways more businesses can provide child care or help their employees afford high quality child care. And again, I thank John Sweeney for his important support of this initiative. (Applause.) In some ways the most gripping part of that film we saw was the father talking about how he was just consumed with worry at work. No parent should ever have to go through that.

Finally, we must use community service to strengthen and expand access to after-school programs. Today, the Corporation for National Service through its To Learn and Grow Initiative will pledge to help after-school programs all across our country to use volunteers to provide better care to children. It is releasing a how-to manual for groups who want to incorporate community service into after-school programs. And I think that, Secretary Riley, if we can win in our little budget battle here on the 21 century community schools, then together, we can do some real good out there on this issue.

My friends, for centuries, over two now, the American Dream has represented a compact that those who work hard and play by the rules should be able to build better lives for themselves and for their children. In this time, and even more into the future, child care that is too expensive, unsafe or unavailable will be a very stubborn obstacle to realizing that dream. So let us commit ourselves to clearing the obstacle, to helping parents fulfill their most sacred duty, to keeping the American Dream alive for them and most important, for their children.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: You know, Ellen, I think that your work over the last number of years from the Families and Work Institute has really helped to highlight a lot of these issues. And one of the most important audiences for this conference, of course, are parents. And I'd like to ask you how we do a better job of empowering parents to make choices about working and child care that are best for their families, and as a subsidiary of that, in particular, what are your views about how we can support parents who want to stay home with their children?

MS. GALINSKY: Well, have the notion in this country that there is a system of choice, but, in fact, if you look at parents choosing child care, we find in our studies between 58 percent and 75 percent of parents feel that they have zero other choices other than the arrangement that they've chosen when they have child care. So, of course, we need to provide better quality child care. And we need to provide the choice for families to stay at home that's a real choice. And you talked about the earned income tax credit and you talked about family medical leave. So it's income and it's programs and policies that support them.

But I think even more important is respect. Right now, I feel often when I talk to mothers and fathers around the country that those mothers who work feel that they're doing something wrong, that they're missing out on their child's life, that society is judging them negatively. And the mothers who are staying at home feel that they're losing the opportunity to earn money and that society is judging them negatively.

So I think what we need to do is to -- you know, I keep wondering, what are we doing to this generation of families? Let's really not only provide real choices, but let's respect them in the choices that they make.

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: I'd like to ask one question. First of all, I can't help saying this -- when I heard you say that warm and responsive child care actually triggered a biochemical reaction that reduced stress -- I wish we could have a center like that for the White House staff and the Congress staff. (Laughter.) We may actually come up with a revolutionary new proposal here today. (Laughter.)

Let me ask you a serious question. One of the things that I have, that I constantly try to deal with here that I'm super sensitive to because I was a governor for 12 years before I came here, is trying to determine who should do what -- what we can do and make a difference; what we have to basically either exhort or incentivize or require some other people to do.

I was quite taken by the comment you made that only 36 hours of training of a child care worker can make a huge difference. I can't help thinking there probably are a lot of young, often single parents that might benefit from the same 36 hours of training. And I'm wondering how you think that issue ought to be dealt with. Should states basically upgrade their training standards and put funds into it? Should there be training centers established, more than are there now, even if everybody were required to do it? Are there enough places that do the training in all states?

Talk a little bit about how we might set up an infrastructure and pattern of training to give -- let's suppose we said within two years we wanted every child care provider, even people who do it out of their home, wherever, to get the 36 hours of training, and we'd like it to be open, let's say, to low-income parents who are having their first child -- how would we do such a thing?

MS. GALINSKY: The block grant in child care actually, I think, was very helpful. Some of the programs that we looked at were supported by that. And what they did was to let communities determine how best to meet the needs of the people there. But what was particularly interesting to me in that -- so you need to make training available, you need to also make it -- and I think your proposal is terribly important -- you need to make sure that people who get training then make enough money to be able to stay in the field.

People came into the training in our study for, not so much to learn about kids, but they came into training to figure out, what do I do Monday morning, how do I deal with business practices, sort of the more practical aspects of how do I manage my job. And then they got interested in kids and their development. And when that 18 to 36 hours of training was over, almost everyone, more than 95 percent, wanted to continue their training and they wanted it tied into a credentialing system. They wanted to get college credit for it. And then we followed them over the next year or so and about half of them did get more training.

So it's not just that 36 hours is a magic number or that there's a magic bullet. It's the opportunity to provide meaningful training, training that really helps people where they are in their own development, and to have it continue.

THE PRESIDENT: But what percentage of the people who are now providing child care get that kind of training? That's the question I'm trying to get.

MS. GALINSKY: Well, I don't really know the exact figure of that, but I don't think that it's very many. I mean, in most states in the country all you have to do to start being a child care provider is be alive and breathing and over 18 years old, and hopefully be a good person, as you're saying. And then you have to promise in many states to get training. In a study that we have just finished and hasn't been released yet, even though they required 30 hours of training in that state, very few people actually did it, and it was required. So it's not enough to require it, we need to have a system that supports it.

In that particular study, there were obstacles to getting the training. It wasn't so easily accessible and they couldn't have time off to do it. So we need to create training that is available, affordable, nearby and good quality, and we need to have the whole child care system support it. You have a requirement and then you don't enforce it, you might as well not have it.

MRS. CLINTON: You know, that just reminds me of how often I've heard it said that we have all kinds of licensing and professional requirements for people who do your hair or other kinds of important functions. Why did I think of hair first? I don't know. (Laughter.) Can't imagine. But we don't have anything like the same licensing, credentialing requirements for people who hold themselves out as child care workers. So there is a real disconnect between what we say is important and what we value and what we have systems for supporting.

Thank, you, Ellen.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. I would just like to make a couple of observations. I thought what you said was terrific. First of all, until -- the crime rate in America's been going down for five years now, rather steeply, but it's been going up among people under 18. It may have leveled off, maybe dropping a little bit now; we're hopeful. But if it is, it's because more and more communities are doing what you suggested. We need another -- at least another year to see whether it's changed.

But you are very familiar with what's been done in Boston, and one of the things that's been done is the whole juvenile justice system has been geared to be warm and responsive. Juvenile probation officers make house calls will police officers. And community groups walk the streets in the afternoon to, basically, almost pick the kids up and give them things to do and get them involved with things. And as far as I know, it's the only major city in America where nobody under 18 has been killed by a gun in two years now. But, it's not rocket science. It's a systematic attempt to take personal responsibility for all these children after school. And I can tell you, you see the flip side of it in these juvenile crime rates -- it's really touching and quite moving.

The other thing I wanted to say is I wonder if you have any sense, just as a practical matter, of whether these programs tend to work better is they are school-based. And the reason I ask that is I think that we fight these battles around here all the time of how to spend the school money, and most money for schools comes from the state and local level, anyway. But I think one of the biggest problems that these schools have on the issue you've talked about is in school after school after school after school, financial problems have caused them to cut back on their art programs, cut back on their music programs, cut back on their non-varsity athletic programs, the things that children used to typically do after school or could stay after school and do. The school districts as they're now budgeting and as they're now staffed and under the rules under which they now labor, they cannot -- more and more schools are dropping these programs. And I think it's disastrous, because a lot of it is just exactly how children relate in kind of a nonlinear, just purely intellectual way that both of you have said is so important. And I was wondering if you've seen that and if you think that's contributing to the problem.

I mean, a lot of people, without any programs, used to just stay after school because there was an art project, there was a music project, you were getting ready for a concert, the intramural teams were playing. And this is -- you know, there are huge school districts in this country where all of these things are a thing of the past. People look at you like you've lost your mind when you talk about this now; they haven't had these things in years.

And it may be that one of the things we ought to be exploring is whether we can reinstitute some of these things in the lives of our schools that would naturally lead to an out-of-school atmosphere so they wouldn't think about adopting a new program approach. Anyway, I just kind of wanted to ask you that: Are the schools the best place if they work, or does it not matter if you do it right?

MS. SELIGSON: I think it should be a matter of whoever is ready, willing and able to do after-school programs. And I think if schools are ready, willing and able to do them and to find the resources to make them enriching and creative environments, then schools should be the place. But it's not an either-or situation, because really schools can partner with community-based organizations, and most of the school-based care that's out there right now looks like that. It looks like partnerships with the Y or with community organizations.

And then there are some school districts that have put money behind after-school care because they see it in their best interestS to do that in terms of what the outcomes will be for the kids. And some Title I money is going into after school programs. So I think all of it possible. I don't see the schools as the only locus. And because there is such local autonomy about decision-making, the local school board makes those decisions, it's very much a community-by-community decision.

MRS. CLINTON: Can you speak more, though, about what makes up a good after school program? What are the components that you would look for as a parent or as a community leader who wanted to provide such a service in your community? Because sometimes I worry that, just as the President was saying, a lot of what we took for granted when we were growing up is no longer readily available. And a lot of the after-school programs that I visit or that I hear about seem so academically oriented, they're not letting kids sort of blow off steam and explore other talents and be part of doing something different. So perhaps you could talk a little bit about what the components of a good after-school program are, and address the issue about whether or not they're valuable only if they are academically oriented.

MS. SELIGSON: Well, of course, the single most important feature in an after-school program that one would call good is the staff. And that means people who have been trained, who are prepared to work in these informal learning environments with kids.

The other thing that I'd like to say about the academic programs is that academic programs are fine as long as they understand, those program planners understand that you can't do academics alone in a vacuum without meeting the other needs of kids. Because kids will vote with their feet, and even if they stay in the program, they may be absent emotionally or mentally. So all programs should have good space, comfortable facilities. Children should feel that they're not just occupying a cafeteria that isn't really theirs, where they can put their things down, where they can start a project and not have to wrap it up before they're finished with it, where someone actually looks at them and says, aha, so you're interested in radio or chess or macrame or whatever, and really takes the time to create opportunities for that child to learn how to do those things and do them well.

So I think it's about, as I said, the relationship and the individual, the nature of the relationship between the staff and the individual child. And I think also for parents, it has to be a place where they feel comfortable coming. Many parents find after-school programs to be sort of gateways for them into the school, sort of mediating places, a way to feel more comfortable themselves with the actual schoolteachers and the regular school day.

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much, Michelle.

THE PRESIDENT: I have to excuse Secretary Rubin in a moment to return to his duties, but I wanted to make one point and ask one question. The point I want to make is, he tries real hard to put on that sort of cold shtick, you know, that this is just economics, but -- (laughter) --

SECRETARY RUBIN: "Shtick" is an Arkansas term. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I learned that from him, that word, you know. (Laughter.) But I'm sure you could see there was more there.

It occurred to me, listening to you talk about this, that this child care issue is an example of what makes our work both wonderful and maddening. How many times has Secretary Riley and I said that every problem in American education has been solved by somebody in some school somewhere, so why don't we get uniform excellence.

I just had the most difficult policy development process I have been through I think since I've been President, that Secretary Rubin and I did together; it was on trying to develop America's position on climate change. But it had very little to do with the science. There is literally enough technology out there today to enable us without lowering our standard of living, indeed while raising our standard of living, to substantially cut our emissions of greenhouse gases. And I can cite you industry after industry after industry that's made a ton of money doing it on their own, so why doesn't everybody do it? Why don't we even have a critical mass of companies doing it? And I ask you that question. So we've got another example here with child care.

If you can cite these examples where all of these companies are making money and having happier, more productive employees, what are the barriers? Why is the market dysfunctional in cases like this, and what can we do to make it work? Because if we were trying to get hookups to the Internet, we'd have 100 percent penetration in one-tenth of the time it takes us to get 10 percent penetration for educational excellence, environmental conservation or spread of child care. What's the difference? (Laughter.)

SECRETARY RUBIN: Are you asking me? (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's the single, most important question about social policy today. You and I think about this all the time, but I don't know what you think about this.

This is not in the notes, he's not prepared to say this.

SECRETARY RUBIN: You're the President of the United States, you're supposed to know the answer to these things. (Laughter.) But having said that, I'll give you a view, whatever it's worth.

I think, Mr. President, you make a very good point. And I think you can point to a lot of other areas where the same thing is true. I think what we need to do -- and it's true with respect to the importance of our country and the global economy, -- the importance of trade liberalization and a lot of other things -- I think there is a need for a massive effort of trying to improve the understanding of people in all parts of our economy and our society about what we really need to do in this new and modern global economy. And I think one of the great difficulties is trying to communicate what really matters -- issues such as this in a world which has so much else coming in at people that, really, in my judgment, matters very little.

But I think that your point here, which is to set up a private sector group of some sort -- or it wouldn't be totally private sector necessarily, but a group of people of some sort, try to identify the best practices, try to identify what works, try to identify problems, and then go out and amongst their peers try to bring to their peers the same understanding they they've acquired through their own experience is maybe the most effective and best way to do this, rather than having somebody else who is not part of their world talking to them and trying to bring them into a shared understanding. And that's at least what we're going to try to do with this, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. (Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much, Secretary Rubin. It is true -- I think you could hear the frustration in the President's voice, that he spends a lot of time, and all of us around him spend a lot of time, and all of us around him spend a lot of time wondering why the best practices and the model programs in a variety of areas in our country don't receive greater awareness and provide more models for people to follow, so that we could spread the success that is evident in so many ways every time you travel around our country.

And we're going to turn to the next part of our program and in a way start addressing this very issue, because Part Two is how we are doing in meeting the challenge and what we need to be doing.

We're going to turn to four additional experts who will address how we're working to assure that families have access to safe, affordable child care, and also give us some insight into what is working well and what we might do to try to replicate that.

THE PRESIDENT: I was glad to hear what you said about not being able to sit still after 3:00 p.m. (Laughter.) I'm glad to know you've been sitting still before 3:00 p.m. (Laughter.) I have never seen you still for two minutes in all of our acquaintance. This is amazing. (Laughter.)

I don't think you can answer this now, but I think it's quite important that we be explicit about a dilemma that we will face as we move toward next year, the State of the Union, what our position ought to be. We all know that there will be in the context of the budget agreement we just adopted, fierce competition for limited money. We're going to have some more money to put into this; we'll do the very best we can. It will be a priority, but still, it seems to me that there will be competition for what the best way the federal government can spend more money in child care is.

We could increase the tax credit to either make it more generous to people who get it now or move it up in the income limits. We could expand Head Start, particularly the Zero To Three program, where we've only got just a few thousand kids now -- 25,000 or something. And I think the early results are pretty promising. It's a terribly important initiative. Or we could devise some way to help get these salaries up, which is abysmal.

When you were talking about the salaries, Hillary gave me a chart which showed that child care workers on the whole are better educated than the American work force and lower paid. So we keep saying we want all these people to come in and get more education and more training, and yet -- and there are some cases where people don't have any education or training, but there are a lot of them that are quite well-educated that are working for ridiculously limited wages. (Applause.)

So what's your sense about how we ought to go about making that decision? And I'll just give a blanket invitation to the audience, too, that if you were in my position and you knew you couldn't do a hundred percent of all these things, would you do a little bit of all of them, would you focus on one, would you focus on the other? And I invite you to make your views known to us either today during the course, or in writing -- because this will be a difficult thing. Congressman Lampson is still here; he's going to have to make a decision about how to vote on this stuff. And we will have to decide.

SECRETARY SHALALA: Mr. President, I think that all of us would say to you we have to invest resources in quality. Start with the basics -- health, safety and encouraging a good learning environment, focus on the care-giver, start with the care of our youngest children and also our school-age children. But it has to be a quality agenda. That's where the weakness is in the system, and focusing on those care-givers is going to be very important in the future. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you very much. I agree with the last thing you said for sure. (Laughter.)

Let me say, the reason I wanted Governor Hunt to come here today, apart from our 20 years of friendship and my immense admiration for him, is that -- if I could go back to the question I asked Secretary Rubin -- the great trick we have with all great social questions in America is that we know that government can't solve alone, either because we don't have the resources or the capacity, is how to have grass-roots, community-based partnerships that still, when the day is over, add up to a system that serves everybody instead of just makes nice, touching stories we can all tell each other at seminars till kingdom come.

And that is what they have done in North Carolina. They have kept the entrepreneurial spirit, they have the partnership. They've cobbled money together, first one place, then another, and he's put a lot of new money in it, and because he has taken this initiative and set up a framework within which creativity and partnership can flourish, they have a system. And I still believe -- I'll say it again -- I think that is the great sort of challenge that America faces that goes across so many of our problems and plainly relates to this.

The only question I wanted to ask you about it that I would like you to specifically address is, do you have enough money to deal with the dilemma that raising quality standards must increase your cost to some extent, and does that price anybody out of it? And if not, why not?

GOVERNOR HUNT: Well, Mr. President, we don't have enough money. We've put about an additional $100 million of state funds into this in the last two or three years, and we've been bringing the counties in as they prepared for it. Three years from now -- they have all gotten some planning money. They really have to really show that they're doing this right. Three years from now, our plan is to have $300 million state dollars in this, in addition to what we had before, federal money and so on. (Applause.)

We think that will get us pretty close to quality for kids. But it may not be enough, and costs go up. It is terribly hard to get the resources. That's why we've got to understand how important this is. You can't do this on the cheap. You really can't. (Applause.) That's why we need businesses' help. We need everybody's help we need the in-kind, churches providing the places, and we need all the federal money we can get, Mr. President. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: You know, just one other thing I'd like to say that I think we ought to consider -- this is a little thing, but you talked about the bully pulpit -- I think a lot of people are just plain, old-fashioned ignorant about what's involved in being an effective, successful child care worker, would be surprised at the average educational level of child care workers in America and the average pay. And I think that we ought -- one of the things that we ought to do with this bully pulpit idea of yours is start trying to find ways that every community and every state can honor outstanding child care workers the same ways we honor teachers today, or scientists or others. (Applause.) Because, I think that's terribly important. I just don't think society -- I don't think they mean to devalue people in this work, I just think they don't know -- most people.

GOVERNOR HUNT: Mr. President, if I may, last year, Mrs. Hunt and I had a statewide gala banquet, 1,200 people or so in the State Capitol to present the awards to the top child care-givers like top teachers. And they came from all over the state. And we had the winners in every county. We really need to really start doing that, showing our appreciation, holding these people up, telling how important this is. We've done it some for schools, not nearly enough. You're going to honor teachers tomorrow right here. But we need to do it for child care-givers, the most important teachers in the world.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I don't think you can underestimate how important it is for people to say to other people that they matter. And if it matters in your personal life, it's got to matter in all these other areas, too. I think it's a big issue.

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I just want to thank Governor Hunt for his example, because one of our hopes is through this conference to highlight what states are doing. He mentioned some of the other states that have very good practices and are expanding the supply of affordable quality child care. I know that the President fought very hard to put into the Welfare Reform Act that there be a provision that would set aside a portion of federal child care dollars to improve quality in the states. And that's a very important aspect of what we hope states are going to be able to do.

MRS. CLINTON: Dr. Washington, that was an excellent analysis of what we are confronting. And what would be your advice about how the President, governors, all of us who are concerned about this issue could do more to engage communities in this discussion where either the community themselves, or the leadership of the community don't think they have any particular stake in trying to pursue the sort of process that you outlined and that Governor Hunt has put into practice in North Carolina?

DR. WASHINGTON: Well, as we've all heard today, we all benefit from quality child care. We've got the word out that child care is a collective good. That's why the federal role and the state role and the local role is so important. Child care is a collective good that doesn't just benefit the people who receive the service, the children and the families themselves, but it gives benefits that accrue to the whole society. That's what we've heard the Secretary speak to. We've got to get this message out in our communities, child care is a collective good; we all benefit from child care.

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is, I think, an extraordinary way to wrap up our morning session. I can't think of anything that could be added to what you said. But if you think about what all of our last speakers said, it amounts a plea to us to do what we can to both increase the coherence and completeness of community-based action within a framework that creates a system that involves all our children.

And again, let me say to all of you involved in this work, I am profoundly grateful to you. I thank you for being here today. This has been an immensely enlightening day to me. I have been struggling to understand this issue, especially since one day several years ago -- we all have our little epiphanies in life about these matters, but Hillary had been talking to me about child care for years, and one day -- and I was running for governor, more than well over a decade ago -- I used to make a habit in every election season of going to the earliest plant gate in my state, because the workers came to work between 4:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. And even the vote-hungriest politicians wouldn't get up that early. (Laughter.) So I always had them all to myself.

And I never will forget, one day I came home and I told Hillary, I said, "you won't believe what happened to me at a quarter to 5:00 a.m. this morning," it was a Campbell soup plant in North Arkansas, and this pickup truck rolled up. And as often happened, the husbands and wives, and one was taking the other to work and they would come up in the dark and kiss each other good-bye. And so this pickup truck came up and this lady leaned over and kissed her husband good-bye and opened the door. And the light came on, and inside were three children under the age of five.

And so I went over and talked to the young man when his wife went in to work -- at a quarter to 5:00 a.m. I said, what are you doing with these kids and how do you do this? He said, well, we've got to get them up every morning at a quarter to 4:00 a.m. And we dress them up. And he said, I keep them as long as I can, but I have to be at work at 7:00 a.m. So I had to find somebody who would take care of them at 6:30 a.m. Three kids under five. But, he said, we've got three kids under five. We both have to work.

Now, there are millions of stories like that. And they are no less gripping for the parents than those who don't have quite such strange circumstances. But it is inconceivable to me that we have had all of you wonderful people working at this and we've put all this money in it, and we still never develop a systematic approach or, in the words of Patty, a quilt that everybody can be a part of. And that, I think, we should all leave as our mission.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

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TO: HRC
FROM: Lissa
RE: Interview with Working Woman magazine
DATE: April 3, 2000

You are scheduled for a 30-minute interview Tuesday morning with Adele (Addie) Stan, the Washington bureau chief of Working Woman magazine. She is principally interested in your record on child care issues, but will likely ask about other children/family issues as well. (A photographer will shoot for about 10 minutes after the interview).

I have given Addie a good amount of background about your role and the role of your staff in promoting child care issues within the Administration. Specifically, I've talked to her about how the child care conference developed out of the early childhood conference; DOD's connection and your visit to Quantico; the child care conference itself; the Treasury Dept. working group that Rubin headed; the budget roll-out in 97-98.

She may ask about one meeting that you attended in December 1997 with the policy council. Apparently this is one where you pushed for tax incentives for stay-at-home parents; ultimately these incentives weren't included due to budget considerations (and we then got whacked by the right wing for not sufficiently supportive of these parents). You might also want to talk about your efforts to push for after care.

I also told her that you had worked closely with Dodd and Kennedy and Jeffords. She might ask you about the idea of government subsidies for kids who are eligible under federal poverty guidelines.

A subtext of her story may be that you were working very hard on many of these issues when the public (e.g. press) was unaware of your role. My hope is that the story of your involvement on child care will help flesh out your record.

Included in this briefing book are:

1) **The latest statistics on the Administration's child care efforts**
2) **News accounts of some of your visits to child care facilities in New York during the past year**
3) **A couple of speeches/columns you've done on child care**

WORKING WOMAN INTERVIEW TIMELINE
APRIL 4, 2000

9:30 am	Flowers and chairs positioned in Map Room (Jen)
10:10 am	Addie Stan and Jennifer Warburg (photographer) arrive to briefing room
10:15 am	Escort from briefing room to Map Room (Jen)
10:20 am	Photographer takes light readings (Jen)
10:30 am	Photographer escorted back to briefing room (Jen)
10:40 am	**Interview in Map Room (Lissa/Erika)**
11:15 am	Photographer escorted back to Map Room (Jen)
11:20 am	**Photographer takes photos of HRC and Addie at conclusion of interview (Also wants photo of HRC alone at desk, if time permits.)**
11:30 am	Addie and Jennifer escorted back to briefing room (Jen)

Nicole Rabner / Child Care 3/21/00

April '97

, PONS announced in SOU
Brain conference - Signature HRC - had wanted since Yale to raise these issues
She felt we needed the conf
At her request we began reporting to her abt implications, it all pointed to child care - quality was central to early child
We had a wkg grp of all fed agencies -
- Pres did a memo to report on what agency does to support c.c. devpt
In some cases didn't do much; others a lot
One thing that came back was the book that DOD abt their child care system
glossy multi colored bk etc.

V. of general was at either conference

We were all so impressed -- to the pt where at the brain conf (I think) we had a general talking -
Sometime that fall → HRC went to Quantico for rdtable w/ parents, military

At brain conf PONS announced that there'd be a ch. care conf. in the fall
Over summer we started planning

Oct '97 Ch. care conference
- learned more + more abt what the problems were; federal role + village
- PONS said, in effect, stay tuned for my budget

Oct - Jan) policy discussions
Jan) HRC/PONS roll-out

Nicole (2) / child care

This was the first conference

She created all the momentum - v. hands on
Brain conf - she was v. hands on -
who was gonna come, speak, themes, deliverables
She knew c.o. in the field

Dec 97 Budget) one seminal mtg w/ Rubin -
Policy deliberations (principals mtg) - policy council
unites heads of agencies

→ Rubin > tax stuff
Reed
Shalala
Riley or M. Smith
Sperling
HRC
various deputies

all there

Her presence was extremely important. We'd had deputy mtgs that were feisty. This one was serious

⇒ HRC got most of what she wanted.

She wanted there to be sthg in it for stay/home parents (first yr wasn't included bc / cost, ?s abt whether it was best use of tax incentives) - she was worried that right wing wld attack it, which was exactly what happened

She had tons of mtgs w/ staff

3/21/00 Nicole (3) / child care

There was a question abt whether to join ch. care
+ after care —
- she argued v. strongly to have both areas
included -
→ dramatic increase ↑ in after school care
VP also weighed in + wanted it to be a ↑ #

Did a whole series of child care events -
Quantico
Florida - innovative approach via businesses
Got Rubin to lead Treasury wkg group on
ch. care

Roll out of Treasury report was in Rose Gdn -

Ellen Galinsky - Fam + Work Institute in NY
Faith Wall exec. dir of Child Care Action campaign NY
CDF - supported our
Helen Blank

Anecdote/ FY'99 was being decided (1st budget after roll-out of ch. care)
Included in discretionary - after school piece + some
quality piece
Jack - deputy OMB?
We were the office pushing ch. care + after care
(VP pushing after care)
→ wrote a memo from Melanne to Jack —
→ there was alot of emphasis on educ so our memo said don't forget ch. care

Rabner (4) 3/21/00

we had $180 m for ch. care quality
$200 for after care (up from $40 m)

HRC talked to Kennedy + Dodd -
In the last budget Dodd + Jeffords had an amendment to get $1 b for subsidies
- we didn't get it but she tried
(govt subsidy - we now provide for 1 in 10 kids who are eligible under fed. poverty guidelines)

Head Start
After care
Ch. Care

She was also fighting for the big stuff like

ADDIESTAN@aol.com
03/14/2000 02:25:20 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Lissa Muscatine/WHO/EOP

cc:
Subject: Fwd: Working Woman story

Return-path: ADDIESTAN@aol.com
Date: Tue, 14 Mar 2000 14:12:59 EST
From: ADDIESTAN@aol.com
Subject: Working Woman story
To: lmuscatine@who.eop.gov
Message-id: <d4.2203d42.25ffe93b@aol.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Unknown (No Version)
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT
Full-name: ADDIESTAN

Dear Lissa:

I spoke with my editor at Working Woman, and she tells me that I would need to complete my research and interviewing for the piece on day care, after care and related issues by the first week in April. As it turns out, the summer issues are combined issues, so this piece would run in the July/August issue, which will appear on newsstands around June 19th or so.

I do believe that the success of this piece will hinge on having a conversation with the first lady about these issues; otherwise the piece will seem terribly wonky. Of course, I'll do whatever is necessary to accomodate Mrs. Clinton's schedule. I can easily get to New York, if need be.

I would like to move ahead with doing the background work for the piece as soon as possible. So I'd love to start talking to you or whomever you direct me to in order to learn about the first lady's role in developing policy on and promoting these issues.

Thank you for your help in setting this all up, and for your patience with the difficulty in reaching me during the primary season. I look forward to continuing our conversation.

Regards,
Addie

Adele M. Stan
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