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Divider Title: **2/8/99**

LEVEL 1 - 23 OF 233 ITEMS

The Irish Times

February 8, 1999, CITY EDITION

SECTION: OPINION; Pg. 16

LENGTH: 1009 words

HEADLINE: Money on its own will not solve the childcare problem

BYLINE: By MEDB RUANE

BODY:

While presidential campaigners Barbara Bush and Hillary Clinton argued about who had the best cookie recipes one day in 1992, a new movie was scaring the heck out of the American family. Had Hill been as smart as she is clever, she might have cut the cookie competition, studied that fear and then moderated her strategies for new health and childcare measures accordingly. But she was not, so she did not. Her plans were embarrassingly shredded.

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle featured a vengeful widow called Peyton (Rebecca de Mornay) masquerading as a nanny to the children of a woman called Claire (Annabel Sciorra) who, she believed, had caused her doctor husband's death and her own subsequent miscarriage. It was complicated: he had committed suicide after Claire reported him for digitally abusing her during a routine pregnancy check-up.

The movie pressed every button in the family gothic genre. Bad enough that Peyton tried to seduce Claire's husband and daughter, worse still that she killed Claire's childless-career-woman best friend - using the family's House and Gardens conservatory as her weapon.

Taboos went tumbling altogether at the moment when Peyton slipped into the nursery and actually breast-fed Joe, the brand new baby. By the end, you could bet safe money that Claire would never trust childcare again.

The report by the Expert Working Group on Childcare steers clear of family gothic, but the debate it provokes presses the same buttons. At its most superficial, the debate is a contest between competing parenting styles, particularly those of mothers. At its most uncomfortable, it amounts to a possible conflict of interest between the welfare of children, the State's most vulnerable citizens, and those of the market, the State's favourite toy.

Whom shall it benefit? What are its desired outcomes? If, as stated, its overt impetus was to increase the pool of workers, will similar economic imperatives excuse the Government from developing a cohesive strategy on family and childcare? And why not implement its uncontroversial recommendations now?

THE crowd-pleasing aspects of this report are its resolution to introduce tax reliefs and credits on some childcare costs, to professionalise childcare providers - with the major exception of parents who care for their own children

- and to offer employers limited tax incentives on their childcare costs. In this, the report simply rushes to keep up with the pace of change already set by working parents.

But the catches are worrying. In the first place, there is no assurance that this historical turnabout in childcare provision will last longer than a baby's infancy. A seven-year limit is proposed, with no plans for what happens next.

One can also wonder how costs and reliefs will be affected by the knock-on pay consequences of professionalising the childcare sector, a move which will inevitably increase salaries for childcare workers.

Calculating average costs of childcare as ranging from (pounds) 44 to (pounds) 71 a week, the report sets an upper limit on the amount of tax relief which can be claimed and staggers that according to the age and number of children in any one family. In my own imprecise straw poll last week, phrases words "peanuts" and "monkeys" spring to mind.

Most of all, the report fails to address wider issues of child poverty and of family rights. That was not its brief, strictly speaking: both are already subjects of existing Government reports which will be considered by the same inter-departmental committee to which this one is being referred.

But given the report's firm placing of future responsibility and authority within the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, the question raised is whether there is sufficient structural and political will overall to make it part of a cohesive strategy on childcare and family issues.

Apart altogether from the considerable vision and imagination needed to deliver wise strategies, recent experiences make it hard to see how the complex issues of childcare will survive competition for funds and for policy priority against more traditional and potentially more disruptive claims on the Justice vote such as prisons and pay.

Experience suggests an ethos there which has been more geared towards systems of control than of flexibility.

And the issues here of poverty and family rights are anything but straightforward.

The Report of the Commission on the Family insisted that employers have responsibilities to the family. But without strategies to make workplaces more family-friendly, childcare provisions could actually work as a cosmetic device to protect the workplace from the needs of families, just as their stay-at-home wives once did.

At on average 50 hours, Irish and British fathers whose partners work exclusively in the home already spend more time at work and have less time with their children than parents elsewhere in Europe. Some choose to, most have to.

Denmark introduced a parent wage which rewards stay-home parents in the only way the market can acknowledge - cash in hand. In the absence of Government comment so far, we can only guess about whether such innovations will be introduced, with or without increased support for existing measures such as child benefit.

Perhaps such issues will be addressed within the family unit of the Fianna Fail parliamentary party when it meets on Wednesday. Perhaps the Taoiseach or his Justice Minister will then confide in us as to their strategic thinking, if any, as we wonder whether Ireland is becoming more an economy than a society.

That's how the cookie crumbles, economists may say, in the same spirit as Barbara Bush watching the failure of Hillary Clinton's recipe for the American family. Not very friendly.

But without a portfolio of cohesive family strategies, a market-driven childcare policy could and probably will mean that in future there will be no reason why all parents should not work long hours, and every pressure to make them do so.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 8, 1999

February 9, 1998

Zero to Three 20th Anniversary Gala

DATE:	**Feb 10, 1998**
TIME:	**7:45 pm**
LOCATION:	**Terrace Theater** **Kennedy Center**
FROM:	**Michael O'Mary**

I. PURPOSE

To attend Zero to Three's 20th Anniversary Gala and to read "Goodnight Moon."

II. BACKGROUND

Zero to Three is one of the premier resources on development in the first three years of human life. Established by leaders in a variety of disciplines, this not-for-profit organization is committed to study, understand, and promote the importance of the crucial early years of human life.

Tuesday's Gala celebrates 20 years of Zero to Three's work to improve the lives of America's babies, toddlers, their families and those who serve them. As you may recall, one of the founders of this organization was Dr. Sally Provence, whom you studied under at Yale.

Your role at the Gala will be to read "Goodnight, Moon" and to offer brief remarks about the administration's commitment to early childhood development. Following the performance, you will attend a meet and greet backstage at which you will have your picture taken with the co-chairs, the sponsors, the Board of Directors, and members of the Zero to Three organization. A list of participants is attached.

At last year's brain conference, you launched the Zero to Three national poll. The results of this poll are attached.

Senators Kennedy, Kerry, Dodd, and Jeffords will be present to receive an award in "recognition of enduring commitment and outstanding legislative achievements on behalf of infants, toddlers and their families." Senator Hatch will also be honored, but will not be attending.

Other celebrities and VIPs will have various roles throughout the evening. A list of performances and performers is attached. Secretary Shalala is the only Cabinet Member attending.

You will be seated next to Michael and Carol Berman in theater style seating.

The Executive Director of Zero to Three, Matthew Melmed is scheduled to be a participant in the roundtable discussion you will attend during the afternoon of 2/10.

III. PARTICIPANTS

-The First Lady
-Approx. 400 invited guests.

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- The First Lady arrives Kennedy Center and is seated.
- Kenny Loggins performs TBD.
- Ron Silver introduces Jacques d'Amboise.
- Jacques d'Amboise performs a children's workshop segment.
- Ron Silver introduces the First Lady.
- The First Lady reads "Goodnight Moon".
- Ron Silver introduces "The Princess and them Pea-ano" and Award Recipients.
- Upon conclusion of the "The Princess and the Pea-ano", Ron Silver introduces Ann Reinking.
- Ann Reinking performs "Me and My Baby".
- Kenny Loggins sings "Return to Pooh Corner".
- Upon conclusion of the song, the First Lady proceeds to Room TBD for Meet and Greet
- The First Lady departs

V. PRESS

Open press.

VI. REMARKS

Talking Points provided by Christy Macy.

CONVERSATION, INSPIRATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Master of Ceremonies		Ron Silver
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak		Avery Brooks
Oh, The Places You'll Go by Dr. Seuss		Faith Prince
"Rainbow Connection"		Kenny Loggins Chris Rodriguez, guitar Donn Wyatt, piano
Poems by Children		Jacques d'Amboise Betsy Abraham Julie Abraham Caroline Burt Nora Greenstein Joshua Mann Jeremy Melmed Christina Thompson
Princess and the Pea-ano		
	Narrator	Avery Brooks
	King	Sen. Christopher Dodd
	Queen	Barbara Harrison
	Prince	Erik Todd Dellums
	Princess	Rita Braver
	Princess	Rep. John Dingell
	Princess	Kate Lehrer
	Sleeping Beauty	Sec. of HHS Donna Shalala
	Counselor	Al Hunt
	Counselor	Robert Novak
	Counselor	Mark Shields
	Visiting King	Sen. James Jeffords
	Visiting King	Sen. Edward Kennedy
	Visiting King	Senator John Kerry
"Me and My Baby" from *Chicago*		Ann Reinking Jim Borstelman James Valcq, piano
"Return to Pooh Corner"		Kenny Loggins

Names of VIPs we hope can get a photograph with the First Lady:

Co-Chairs
Michael & Carol Berman
Martha Naismith & husband (will check to see if he's coming?)
Senator & Debbie Dingell
Richard & Gahl Burt (check with Carolyn regarding this)
Tim Boggs & James Schwartz
5

Sponsors
Andrea Alstrup & Katherine Armstrong (Johnson & Johnson)
Tom Gunnigle, Thelma Lager, Karl Weiskopf (KIDS II)
2

Board of Directors
Rebecca Shahmoon Shanok & Linda Gilkerson
Harriett & Ulrich Meyer
Joy & Howard Osofsky
Arnold Sameroff & Susan McDonough
Kyle & Marcia Pruett
Bob Harmon& Gloria Johnson-Powell
Barry Zuckerman & Jack Shonkoff
Sam & Alice Meisels (will find out name)
Stanley Greenspan & Serena Wieder
9

ZERO TO THREE
Matthew Melmed & Debbie Rozell, Andrew & Jeremy Melmed
Haida & Frank McGovern & Tandis Sale (daughter)
20th Anniversary Team: Matthew Melmed, Carol Berman, Haida McGovern, Lynette Ciervo, Joan Melner, Gail Roache and Abbey Griffin.
3

19 total

ZERO TO THREE

NEWS

National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families

Embargoed for Release:
April 17, 1997
7 a.m.

Contact: Lynette Ciervo
202/638-1144
301/251-8564 (h)

Parents of Babies and Toddlers Face "Information Deficit" on Healthy Child Development:

National Poll Reveals Less Knowledge about Emotional, Social and Intellectual Development

Washington, D.C. -- A national survey released today by ZERO TO THREE revealed that parents of babies and toddlers have much less knowledge and information about their children's emotional, intellectual and social development than about their physical development. Parents thirst for more information on how to promote their young children's healthy development.

The national poll of more than 1,000 parents, conducted by Peter Hart Research Associates between March 21 and April 1, 1997 and funded by the Heinz Family Foundation, found that while parents know they have an important influence on their children's development, they do not fully understand how their *day-to-day interactions* with their babies and toddlers affect early child development and learning.

Also, while parents believe that what they do as parents has the greatest influence on their children's emotional development, they also say they have the least information in this area.

For example, the majority of parents of children under three (53 percent) feel "totally sure" that they know what signs to watch for to see if their child's physical development is on track. But only 38 percent of parents feel totally sure that they can tell if their young child's emotional development is healthy and about right for his or her age. About two in five parents (44 percent) feel totally sure that they can tell if their infant or toddler's intellectual development is on track; 37 percent feel this way about milestones of social development.

--more--

Almost all parents (95 percent) understand the central message of recent child development research -- that babies are learning from the moment they are born. But parents of infants and toddlers are confused about important details. Many parents **don't** know that:

- *"Stimulation" isn't always good for children.* 87 percent of parents thought that the *more* stimulation a baby receives, the better off he or she is. (In fact, parents and caregivers need to carefully match the amount and kind of stimulation they offer to a baby to that child's level of development, special interests, temperament, and mood at the moment.)

- *Too many changes in caregivers can slow a child's development and leave children reluctant to form new relationships.* Half of all parents thought that the *more* caregivers a child has before age three, the better that child will be at adapting and coping with change. (In fact, when very young children switch repeatedly from one caregiver to another, the time they spend grieving the loss of the old caregiver and learning the new caregiver's ways may slow down their overall development.)

- *Parents' and caregivers' interactions with babies and toddlers influence children's intellectual abilities.* One in four parents either thought or was unsure whether every baby is born with a certain level of intelligence, which cannot be either increased or decreased by how parents interact with him or her. (In fact, parents' involvement and support can enhance young children's problem-solving skills, increase children's curiosity about their environment, and build children's confidence in their own ability to learn.)

- *Babies less than six months old can get depressed.* Less than two-thirds of parents (65 percent) realize that this statement is true. (In fact, experts in child health and development can now identify many emotional problems in very young children and work with families to treat these difficulties.)

In addition, parents' uncertainties lead to a strong desire for more information:

- Though 39 percent of parents believe that they have the **greatest influence** over their children's emotional development (compared to intellectual, social, or physical development), more than one in four parents (26 percent) said that they had the **least information** about emotional development (compared to intellectual, social and physical development).

--more--

- Sixty percent of parents report being extremely or very interested in information on brain development and how young children learn. An additional 21 percent said they were fairly interested.

- Nearly half of all parents of infants and toddlers (46 percent) report they pay serious attention to news reports and newspaper articles about early childhood development issues. In addition, 36 percent regularly look for information in magazines and 39 percent say they pick up literature in their pediatrician's office on a very or fairly regular basis.

Two major barriers exist to better parenting: "an information deficit" and a time crunch:

- One in 5 parents say they feel the need to improve as a parent because they find it hard to understand their child's feeling and needs (19 percent), or don't know how to handle difficult situations with their child (19 percent).

- Almost two in five parents (37 percent) say that one of the chief reasons they may need to improve as parents is that they don't spend as much quality time with their child as they'd like to.

- Half of all parents say they end most days feeling that they spent less time than they wanted to with their young child -- either a lot less time (20 percent) or a little less time (27 percent). With more than 10 million children age birth-to-three in this country, this means that five million infants and toddlers have parents who personally feel they don't spend enough time with them, including two million kids whose moms or dads say they get a lot less time together than they want.

Caregivers other than mothers and fathers play a major role in the lives of young children.

- Only 1 in 5 babies and toddlers have been cared for exclusively by their father or mother since birth.

- Sixty percent of all children under age three are currently cared for on a regular basis by someone other than their parents. This is true for 48 percent of babies from birth to 8 months, 59 percent of children from 9-18 months, and 66 percent of children from 19 months to 3 years old.

- Grandparents are the regular caregivers for 23 percent of babies and toddlers; other family members care regularly for an additional 9 percent of young children.

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- Overall, 16 percent of children from birth to three are in child care centers (8 percent of infants from 0-8 months, 21 percent of children from 19-36 months). 9 percent of infants and toddlers are in family day care.

Survey findings reveal that while parents understand that their children's earliest years powerfully shape later development and learning, they are often unsure about what they should be doing to promote healthy emotional, social, and intellectual development *The scientific community, communications media, and health and development professionals need to translate research and practice findings into clear, practical messages for parents.*

"Parents need to trust themselves -- they know their children better than anyone else," says Matthew E. Melmed, ZERO TO THREE executive director. "They also need to understand that how they 'are' with their baby has a tremendous impact on the emotional, intellectual and social development of that child. Parents can benefit from the growing knowledge base in these areas."

Parents, grandparents, other family members, and professional caregivers are all sharing the care of today's infants and toddlers. *Child development researchers, families, health care providers, and the early care and education community must share their expertise and experience, and, with the active support of the business community, promote public and private policies that support the healthy development of our nation's infants, toddlers and families.*

ZERO TO THREE, which for 20 years has served as the nexus of the multidisciplinary "infant/family" field, is committed to these goals. ZERO TO THREE will continue to translate scientific research and disseminate it to a wide variety of audiences -- including parents. ZERO TO THREE will also continue to assist individuals, organizations, and policymakers working to address the needs of America's infants, toddlers and families.

Funding for communicating the importance of the earliest years to parents through a ZERO TO THREE public education initiative is being provided by: AETNA Foundation, Inc.; Gerber Companies Foundation; Lynn and Philip Straus; Fannie Mae Foundation; The Harris Foundation; Glickenhaus & Co.; and the McCormick Tribune Foundation.

ZERO TO THREE is a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing the healthy development of babies and young children through training infant/family professionals, disseminating scientific and public information, and promoting policy relevant to infants, toddler and their families.

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The Associated Press

View Related Topics

February 11, 1998, Wednesday, PM cycle

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 218 words

HEADLINE: 'Goodnight Moon' reading highlights anniversary of '**Zero to Three**'

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:
With the audience joining in, first lady **Hillary** Rodham **Clinton** read "Goodnight Moon" at a Kennedy Center ceremony honoring the 20th anniversary of **Zero to Three,** a group that helps children in their early developmental years.

"Goodnight clock, goodnight socks. Goodnight little house and goodnight mouse," Mrs. Clinton said, reading aloud from a book that she said was a personal favorite of hers, President Clinton and daughter Chelsea.

Actor Ron Silver served as emcee for Tuesday's fund-raiser, which featured a dramatic reading of "Where the Wild Things Are" by actor Avery Brooks and the Dr. Seuss story, "Oh, The Places You'll Go," by actress Faith Prince.

A comic troupe, including Sens. Christopher Dodd, James Jeffords, Edward Kennedy and John Kerry, along with Rep. John Dingell and Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala performed a rendition of "Princess and the Pea-Ano."

Singer Kenny Loggins also performed "Rainbow Connection" and his children's hit, "Return to Pooh Corner."

Zero to Three was founded in 1977 by pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton and others who believe that the first three years of a baby's life are the most important in the child's development. During that period, the brain is making most of the electrical connections that are used in adult life.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 11, 1998

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Search: General News;zero to three and hillary w/2 clinton

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

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Example: **House of Representatives**

The Washington Times

View Related Topics

February 13, 1998, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: Part C; METROPOLITAN TIMES; PARTY LINES; Pg. C14

LENGTH: 733 words

HEADLINE: Friends of children turn 20

BYLINE: Kevin Chaffee; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BODY:

Some called it a "VIP version of 'Sesame Street.' " For others it was " 'Romper Room' for the political and media elite."

But the best description of the extravaganza **Zero to Three** threw for itself Tuesday night might have been " 'Ding Dong School' Goes to Washington."

Apart from Kenny Loggins (who sang) and Broadway babe Ann Reinking (who hoofed it through "Me and My Baby"), **Hillary** Rodham **Clinton** was just about the only one taking her theatrics semiseriously at the early child care organization's 20th-anniversary event in the Kennedy Center's jam-packed Terrace Theater.

The first lady, who received a tumultuous standing ovation upon entering with her Secret Service contingent, was the picture of matronly propriety as she read the children's story "Good Night Moon" to a rapt audience.

"There were three little bears sitting in chairs . . .," she recited in a sing-song voice that inspired the crowd to join in her rendition of the classic tale many already knew by heart.

Mrs. Clinton may have had top billing, but her special guest appearance was a mere warm-up for what was yet to come: a semislapstick skit performed without pratfalls by Senate solons and big-league pundits who stumbled through their briefly rehearsed parts in a nursery school play called "The Princess and the Pea-ano."

Wearing the usual silly costumes, of course.

Kingly roles for Sens. John Kerry, Ted Kennedy, James Jeffords and Christopher Dodd required the donning of long white chefs' aprons to disguise the inevitable pinstripes and the placing of shiny silver paper crowns over bushy shocks of senatorially gray hair as they recited such memorable lines as, "Drat!" and "Double drat!" (which occasionally were on cue).

"Counselors" Al Hunt and Mark Shields got to grin a lot as they paraded about carrying banners, with a grim-faced Bob Novak, looking like an executioner, joining in the fun.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala got major laughs as "Sleeping Beauty," which she hammed up with more enthusiasm than the rest of the cast put together - especially when it came time to slump over snoring and fall "face down into her porridge."

There were roles for a queen (Barbara Harrison) and several princesses as well, the latter portrayed by Rita Braver, Kate Lehrer and Rep. John Dingell (!), who surprised and delighted the crowd by appearing on stage wrapped in a pink chiffon cape with a feather pasted atop his mostly bald pate.

It was just too much for the hard-bitten lawyers and lobbyists in the crowd, who couldn't resist ribbing the 22-term dean of the House after the show was over.

"Can I kiss the princess?" joshed KIDSPAC director Bill Harris as a group surrounding Mr. Dingell and his wife, Debbie, burst into laughter outside the theater.

"I will pay, I will pay, I will pay," Mrs. Dingell chanted in mantralike fashion, awaiting inescapable retribution for having cajoled him into the role.

"I'm going hunting this weekend," the longtime supporter of the National Rifle Association announced with a stony face, secure in his knowledge that Mrs. Dingell hates the shooting of animals for sport.

"You'd have to be a lifetime member of the NRA to wear that outfit and get away with it," Mr. Dodd chuckled as he joined the $250 to $500 ticket-holders for a buffet supper in the Kennedy Center's atrium.

Infantile antics for charity were all part of the game as far as Mr. Kennedy was concerned. "They call, you say yes," Massachusetts' senior senator intoned while charging full speed into the room on his bum leg, referring in this particular instance, no doubt, to the clout wielded by **Zero to Three** Associate Director Carol Berman and her husband, Michael, a well-known lobbyist of Democratic stripe.

"What happens to infants and toddlers has an impact throughout the rest of their life," Mrs. Berman said, hardly needing to explain the incredible show of support for an organization that has been instrumental in creating the field of early child care in this country.

The sense of one of Mrs. Berman's earlier comments was suddenly made clear after dessert, when a fair number of guests exited with much more than their fair share of table-favor rattles, stuffed animals and other baby toys in hand.

"**Zero to 3** is a very critical period of development," she had emphasized, "but it's not the only one."

GRAPHIC: Photos, A) Rep. John Dingell, clad as a "princess" for his role in "The Princess and the Pea-ano," gets an onstage welcome from actor Erik Todd Dellums and four kingly senators (from left) John Kerry, Ted Kennedy, Jim Jeffords and Chris Dodd.; B) Al Hunt, Sen. Chris Dodd and Jim Lehrer share a laugh after the show.; Right: Debbie Dingell and Carol Berman chat during cocktails.; C) **Hillary** Rodham **Clinton** reads "Good Night Moon., All By Jim Brantley/The Washington Times

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 13, 1998

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Search: General News;zero to three and hillary w/2 clinton

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Example: **House of Representatives**

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Washington Times 2-12-98

Talking It Over

By Hillary Rodham Clinton

Home visitation helps fledgling mothers cope

My daughter, Chelsea, turns 18 this month. How vividly I remember the overwhelming feelings of love and responsibility as she lay in my arms 18 years ago. During the nine months of pregnancy, I had studied and read about parenting, but nothing prepared me for the sheer miracle of having a child.

Despite my efforts, I soon discovered that grasping child-rearing concepts in the abstract and knowing what to do with the baby in your hands are two very different things. Babies don't come with instructions. Even the most fortunate among us need some calm reassurance and a little guidance to get through those scary firsts — breast feeding, diaper changing, bathing that slippery little creature. But what about parents who have known only poverty or neglect? What about parents without a supportive community? And what about those who have grown up trapped in cycles of abuse and low expectations?

When families lived closer together, it was easier for relatives to pitch in during the early months of a newborn's life. When women worked primarily in the home, they provided a neighborhood support system to lend a hand to new mothers. But now, relatives and neighbors aren't as readily available, and programs to help fledgling parents are few and far between.

This week, I visited the home of a single mother in Alexandria. Depressed and scared when she became pregnant, Felicia was referred to a program called Healthy Families Alexandria, which was launched in 1993 when the area began to experience some disturbing trends, including increasingly high rates of child poverty and abuse, teen pregnancy, low birth-weight babies and vaccine-preventable diseases.

At the heart of the program is the family support worker, a trained professional or paraprofessional who visits the new mother on a regular basis, both before and after birth, to offer education, support and a patient ear. Home visitors also help with critical issues such as ensuring that the child receives regular medical attention and nutrition and that the parent is provided with referrals to peer-group activities, transportation, housing, child care, employment and medical care.

With the support of her home visitor, Felicia is now the proud and confident mother of Dominico, a gurgling, smiling and healthy 3-month-old. On the day I visited, Felicia's home visitor was checking the baby's development, offering some age-appropriate toys and answering Felicia's questions and concerns. From her vantage point in the home, the visitor is able both to evaluate the child's growth and development, and to assess whether the child's surroundings are suitable and nurturing. When I asked Felicia if she thought home visits would help others, she said, "Oh, yes, I feel so rich. Having Lynn really helps."

Equipping parents to be the best they can be is critical to the future of our country. Long-term studies tell us that home-visitation programs can help. Researchers have just completed a 15-year study of 324 first-time mothers who participated in the Prenatal and Infancy Nurse Home Visitation Program in Elmira, N.Y. The results are dramatic: significant reductions in government assistance, child abuse, unintended second pregnancies, substance abuse and child hospitalizations. And now that these children are teenagers, there's evidence that this program can reduce incidence of juvenile crime. The costs of the program were fully recovered by the time the children were 4 years old, thanks to less use of government services and fewer subsequent pregnancies.

The results of the Prenatal and Infancy Nurse Home Visitation Program were significant reductions in government assistance, child abuse, unintended second pregnancies, substance abuse and child hospitalizations.

I believe that one of our greatest challenges is to identify programs like this that work and make them more widely available to families who would benefit from them. This week, I spent some time with the lead researcher on the Elmira study, Dr. David Olds. We agreed that we must invest more in research, replicate proven models and make existing programs better.

Because children's experiences in the earliest years of life are central to their healthy development, the president has proposed increasing our investment in activities that promote early learning and improve the quality of child care in our country. A major element of the president's child care proposal is the Early Learning Fund, which will provide challenge grants to communities that promote early learning, including home-visiting programs.

I don't think I know a mother who hasn't sought help and support in those first months and years after having a child. Most of us have help available, but sadly, too many don't. I met one young woman who told me that, without the advice of her home visitor, she would never have known that talking and reading actually improve the development of her newborn daughter's brain. Raising healthy children is the most important and the hardest job any of us will ever have. Home-visitation programs can make that job easier. And that means healthier children, healthier families and healthier communities.

'98 FEB 17 PM8:47

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 17, 1998

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE OUTREACH EVENT

DATE:	February 18, 1998
LOCATION:	Children's Hospital
EVENT TIME:	1:10 pm - 2:00 pm
FROM:	Bruce Reed/Chris Jennings

I. PURPOSE

To announce the first states to join the Children's Health Insurance Program and new efforts by the federal government and private sector to enroll millions of uninsured children into Medicaid or other state-based children's health programs.

II. BACKGROUND

Over 10 million children in America are uninsured, with 3 million of them eligible for but not enrolled in Medicaid. To address this problem, you fought for and signed into law the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) last year, which provides funding for states to expand health care coverage to uninsured children. This event will provide you with an opportunity to highlight steps the Administration is taking to implement this initiative; to detail your 1999 budget proposal to improve children's health outreach; to announce executive actions complementing this legislative proposal; and call attention to significant private sector commitments to children's outreach.

At this event, you will make the following specific announcements:

- **COLORADO AND SOUTH CAROLINA HAVE JOINED ALABAMA AS THE FIRST COVERAGE EXPANSIONS UNDER THE NEW CHIP PROGRAM.** You will announce that Colorado and South Carolina join Alabama as the first states to come into the children's health program. In late January, Alabama received approval to expand its Medicaid program to children ages 14 to 18 up to 100 percent of poverty. South Carolina will expand its Medicaid program to provide coverage to all children up to 150 percent of poverty. And, Colorado builds upon its current non-Medicaid program to cover children up to 185 percent of poverty. You will also announce that many more States are well on their way to expanding coverage to more uninsured children. Currently, 14 states have submitted plans to HHS for approval, and another 18 States have active working groups or task forces to design plans to address the needs of uninsured children.

- **A NEW PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE TO LAUNCH A GOVERNMENT-WIDE EFFORT TO ENROLL UNINSURED CHILDREN.** At this event you will sign an executive memorandum to seven Federal agencies with jurisdiction over children's programs — the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, Education, HHS, HUD, Labor, and Treasury and the Social Security Administration -- that will direct the establishment of a multi-agency effort to enroll uninsured children. These agencies run programs such as WIC, Food Stamps, Head Start, and public housing that cover many of the same children who are uninsured and eligible for Medicaid or other health insurance. Your memorandum instructs these agencies: (1) to identify all their employees and grantees who might come into contact with these children and ensure that these individuals are aware of the health insurance programs available to children; (2) to develop an intensive children's outreach initiative, such as distributing information, coordinating toll-free numbers, and simplifying and coordinating application forms; and (3) to report back in 90 days on their plan to help enroll uninsured children.

- **NEW BUDGET PROPOSALS THAT PROVIDE MEDICAID ENROLLMENT INCENTIVES TO STATES.** Your FY 1999 budget invests $900 million over 5 years in children's health outreach policies, including the use of schools and child care centers to enroll children in Medicaid. The budget provides states with the option of automatically enrolling children in Medicaid even before having received all of the complicated eligibility and enrollment forms (a provision known as "presumptive eligibility"). It also expands the use of a Federally-financed administrative fund so that it can underwrite the costs for <u>all</u> uninsured children — not just the limited population allowed under current law.

- **A HISTORIC PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE OUTREACH.** To complement the public outreach effort, you will announce unprecedented new contributions from the private sector to help ensure that all children who are eligible for health insurance receive it, including:

  - **A new toll-free number that directs families around the nation to their state enrollment centers.** You will announce that Bell Atlantic will establish and operate a toll-free number to help states enroll uninsured children. The number, which will be put in place during the upcoming months, will be used by the nation's Governors to help millions of families around the nation by directing them automatically to their local state Medicaid enrollment agency.

  - **Over $23 million in commitments from private foundations across the country.** The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will spend $13 million over the next 3 years to fund innovative state-local coalitions to design and conduct outreach initiatives, simplify enrollment processes, and coordinate existing coverage programs. The Kaiser Family Foundation will spend up to $10 million over the next 5 years on studies to help understand why eligible children do not enroll in existing programs and how best to provide insurance coverage for these children. America's Promise, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Academy of Pediatrics, will mobilize corporations such as Smith Kline Beecham and Sheering Plough and local communities nationwide in children's health outreach efforts.

- **New initiatives from corporate and advocacy organizations to reach out to uninsured children.** Pampers has volunteered to include a letter in its child birth education packages, given to 90 percent of first-time mothers, giving families information about available health insurance options. Chain drug stores across the country will provide information about the new Bell Atlantic toll-free number to their customers. The National Education Association is launching an unprecedented effort to educate teachers on how they can inform children and their families about health insurance, through national newsletters, conferences, and special training sessions. The American Hospital Association's Campaign for Coverage will increase its nationwide initiative to engage hospitals in helping uninsured Americans, including children.

III. PARTICIPANTS

- The First Lady
- Secretary Shalala
- Ned Zechman, President and CEO of Children's Hospital
- Linda Haverson, parent whose son was recently enrolled in Medicaid because of a local outreach effort. Her son was able to have necessary ear surgery because of his coverage.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- You will be announced onto the stage accompanied by the First Lady, Secretary Shalala, Ned Zechman, and Linda Haverson.
- Ned Zechman, President and CEO of Children's Hospital, will make welcoming remarks.
- Secretary Shalala will make remarks and introduce the First Lady.
- The First Lady will make remarks and introduce Linda Haverson.
- Linda Haverson will make remarks and introduce you.
- You will make remarks.
- You will sign the executive memorandum.
- You will work a ropeline and then depart to the holding room.
- You and the First Lady will briefly meet with private sector representatives who have made commitments to do children's health outreach. (Please see attached list.)

VI. REMARKS

Remarks provided by June Shih in Speechwriting.

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES A SERIES OF NEW EFFORTS TO ENROLL UNINSURED CHILDREN IN HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS
February 18, 1998

Today, the President is announcing the first major state coverage expansions under the recently enacted Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and released information showing that many States will soon follow. He also unveiled an unprecedented set of public/private initiatives designed to enroll the millions of uninsured children who are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid and other state-based children's health programs. These initiatives have been designed in partnership with Governors, health care providers, children's health advocates, foundations, businesses and many others who are committed to providing health care coverage for the nation's uninsured children.

Over 10 million children in America are uninsured. Nearly 90 percent of these children have parents who work, but do not have access to or cannot afford health insurance. Over 3 million of these uninsured children are already eligible for Medicaid. However, many families are not aware that their children are eligible for Medicaid, and others have difficulty filling out the application. Similar problems could undermine the new Children's Health Insurance Program's goal to enroll millions of uninsured children. With these challenges in mind, the President:

✔ **ANNOUNCED THAT COLORADO AND SOUTH CAROLINA HAVE JOINED ALABAMA AS THE FIRST COVERAGE EXPANSIONS UNDER THE NEW CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP).** Today, the President is announcing that Colorado and South Carolina join Alabama as the first states to come into the children's health program. In late January, Alabama received approval to expand its Medicaid program to children ages 14 to 18 up to 100 percent of poverty. South Carolina will expand its Medicaid program to provide coverage to all children up to 150 percent of poverty. And, Colorado builds upon its current non-Medicaid program to cover children up to 185 percent of poverty. The President is also announcing that many more States are well on their way to expanding coverage to more uninsured children. Currently, 14 additional states have submitted plans to HHS for approval, and another 18 States have active working groups or task forces to design plans to address the needs of uninsured children.

✔ **RELEASED A NEW PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE TO LAUNCH A GOVERNMENT-WIDE EFFORT TO ENROLL UNINSURED CHILDREN.** In an executive memorandum to eight Federal agencies with jurisdiction over children's programs — the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, Education, HHS, HUD, Interior, Labor, and Treasury and the Social Security Administration -- the President is directing the establishment of a multi-agency effort to enroll uninsured children. These agencies run programs such as WIC, Food Stamps, Head Start, and public housing that cover many of the same children who are uninsured and eligible for Medicaid or other health insurance. The memorandum instructs these agencies: (1) to identify all their employees and grantees who might come into contact with these children and ensure that these individuals are aware of the health insurance programs available to children; (2) to develop an intensive children's outreach initiative, such as distributing information, coordinating toll-free numbers, and simplifying and coordinating application forms; and (3) to report back in 90 days on their plan to help enroll uninsured children.

✔ **HIGHLIGHTED BUDGET PROPOSALS THAT PROVIDE MEDICAID ENROLLMENT INCENTIVES TO STATES.** The President's FY 1999 budget invests $900 million over 5 years in children's health outreach policies, including the use of schools and child care centers to enroll children in Medicaid. The budget provides states with the option of automatically enrolling children in Medicaid even before having received all of the complicated eligibility and enrollment forms (a provision known as "presumptive eligibility"). It also expands the use of a Federally-financed administrative fund so that it can underwrite the costs for <u>all</u> uninsured children — not just the limited population allowed under current law.

✔ **ANNOUNCED A HISTORIC PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE OUTREACH.** To complement the public outreach effort, the President is announcing unprecedented new contributions from the private sector to help ensure that all children who are eligible for health insurance receive it, including:

- **A new toll-free number that directs families around the nation to their state enrollment centers.** The President is announcing that Bell Atlantic will establish and operate a toll-free number to help states enroll uninsured children. The number, which will be put in place during the upcoming months, will be developed in cooperation with the nation's Governors. This will help millions of families around the nation by directing them automatically to their local state Medicaid enrollment agency.

- **Over $23 million in commitments from private foundations across the country.** The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will spend $13 million over the next 3 years to fund innovative state-local coalitions to design and conduct outreach initiatives, simplify enrollment processes, and coordinate existing coverage programs. The Kaiser Family Foundation will spend up to $10 million over the next 5 years on studies to help understand why eligible children do not enroll in existing programs and how best to provide insurance coverage for these children. America's Promise, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics, will mobilize corporations such as SmithKline Beecham and Sheering Plough and local communities nationwide in children's health outreach efforts.

- **New initiatives from corporate and advocacy organizations to reach out to uninsured children.** Pampers has volunteered to include a letter in its child birth education packages, given to 90 percent of first-time mothers, providing families information about available health insurance options. Grocery stores and chain drug stores across the country will provide information about the new Bell Atlantic toll-free number to their customers. The National Education Association is launching an unprecedented effort to educate teachers on how they can inform children and their families about health insurance, through national newsletters, conferences, and special training sessions. The American Hospital Association's Campaign for Coverage will increase its nationwide initiative to engage hospitals in helping uninsured Americans, including children.

✔ **ISSUED A CHALLENGE ACROSS AMERICA TO FIND NEW WAYS TO REACH OUT TO UNINSURED CHILDREN.** The President is challenging every physician, nurse, health care provider, business, school, parent, grandparent, and community across the nation, to find new ways to ensure that uninsured children eligible for health insurance are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP. This national commitment should not stop until every eligible child across the country is enrolled in one of the existing health care programs.

Children's Health Outreach
February 18, 1998

Internal Questions and Answers

Q: Why does the President's FY 99 budget request additional money for children's health so soon after Congress passed a $24 billion expansion?

A: The $24 billion for the Children's Health Insurance Program targets children who have never been eligible for health insurance assistance before, whereas the President's health outreach proposals in the FY 1999 budget target uninsured children who are already eligible for Medicaid. Over one-third of uninsured children are eligible for Medicaid but do not know it or find the system too difficult to navigate. The President's proposals aim to eliminate those barriers by giving states access to additional funds for outreach and additional flexibility to enroll children in Medicaid at sites like schools and child care centers.

Q: Why is it taking so long to get CHIP up and running? It went into effect on October 1, 1997, yet not a penny of this money has been spent, and you have "stopped the clock" on almost every CHIP plan submitted to date. Why?

A: It has not taken a long time to implement CHIP. This program was created only 6 months ago, yet already HHS has issued over ten sets of implementation guidelines, has held a series of nine regional conferences for State officials on CHIP, and has been working one-on-one with states on their submitted plans.

Governors and state legislators have also been extremely active. To date, 17 states have submitted plans and another 18 have working groups or task forces to plan for their programs. HHS has only stopped the 90 day deadline for approvals when a state has not submitted information required by law (e.g., not included a budget or some other necessary piece of information). Once a state's plan is approved, it can receive funds retrospectively for an approved expansion after October 1, 1997, which means that they can receive all the money that would have been allocated to them

Q: How many children will be covered under the new CHIP program?

A: The children's health initiative's goal is to cover up to 5 million uninsured children. We intend to achieve this goal through aggressive implementation of CHIP and a strong public/private outreach initiative to ensures that all uninsured children eligible for Medicaid or CHIP gets enrolled.

Q: **Won't this new children's health insurance program just be used by families as a substitute for having to buy dependent health care for their children or as a substitute by employers who will not provide dependent care?**

A: The Clinton Administration is making every effort to assure that private insurance is not dropped in favor of the new CHIP program. The law clearly states that CHIP funds are to be spent on children who are currently not covered by health insurance. As part of the CHIP plans, states must design ways to avoid the so-called "crowd out" phenomenon whenever possible. As outlined in a recent letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (February 17, 1998), states' strategies will be reviewed before approval and in several years to ensure that they are effective in limiting the use of CHIP funds to uninsured children.

Q: **How long will it take to get all states to adopt plans?**

A: We expect that virtually all states will have operational Children's Health Insurance Plans by the end of the year. The Governors and the Administration have made this a high priority and are working collaboratively on approving state plans as rapidly as possible.

Q: **A recent George Washington University report found that 43 percent of health centers who, by law, are supposed to have Medicaid eligibility workers on site do not do so. Shouldn't the Federal government's first step in children's health outreach be to enforce the laws that they already have on the books?**

A: HCFA, which oversees Medicaid, is committed to ensuring that all Federal laws relating to children's health outreach are enforced. As part of its outreach effort, it will work with states to assess their compliance with the "outstationing" requirement.

A NATIONAL EFFORT TO INSURE AMERICA'S CHILDREN: WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER FUTURE

February 18, 1998

To meet the challenge of insuring millions of children, foundations, corporations, health care providers, teachers, child care providers, advocates, and public health officials are coming together to inform families about insurance options for their children. The following is a list of some major activities.

Enlisting Health Care Providers:

- The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Nurses Association are educating physicians and nurses throughout the country on how to enroll low-income uninsured children in CHIP and Medicaid.

Engaging Hospitals and Health Centers:

- The American Hospital Association has launched the *Campaign for Coverage... A Community Health Challenge* to expand health care coverage to 4 million more Americans through outreach and education efforts designed to bolster participation in CHIP, Medicaid, and other programs.

- The National Association of Children's Hospitals and the National Association of Public Hospitals are identifying and promoting innovative models of outreach and enrollment to uninsured children within hospital facilities and throughout the community.

- The Catholic Health Association has launched the *Children's Health Matters* campaign to provide support to local hospitals and social service agencies in 23 states in their efforts to enroll Medicaid eligible children.

- The National Association of Community Health Centers is working through its 700 centers to identify and enroll low-income uninsured children — including the 1.3 million such children they now serve — through Medicaid/CHIP enrollment services at Community Health Centers.

Making Children's Health Insurance a Public Health Priority:

- The National Association of County and City Health Officials, the American Public Health Association, and the Association of Maternal and Children Health Programs are working to inform all their members on ways to increase health insurance coverage for the children that they treat.

Investing in Innovative National, State and Local Outreach:

- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will spend $13 million over the next 3 years to fund innovative state-local coalitions to design and conduct outreach initiatives, simplify enrollment processes, and coordinate existing coverage programs.

- The Kaiser Family Foundation will spend up to $10 million over the next 5 years on studies to help understand why eligible children are uninsured, how best to provide insurance coverage for them, and which outreach initiatives work.

- America's Promise, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics, will mobilize corporations and local communities nationwide in children's health outreach efforts. Already, two of the nation's major pharmaceutical companies have joined this effort --SmithKline Beecham and Schering Plough.

- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation will spend several hundred thousand dollars on children's health programs such as the Children's Health Collaborative Project, a joint project of the National Association for State Health Policy, the National Governors' Association, and the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Mobilizing Major Corporations:

- Bell Atlantic, in collaboration with the nation's Governors, will establish and support a single toll free phone number that directs families to their local eligibility offices.

- Pampers will distribute information on available health insurance options, including the toll-free number, in its childbirth education packages, which are given to 90 percent of first-time mothers.

- The National Association of Chain Drug Stores and the National Community Pharmacists Association will distribute the toll-free number to more than 150,000 pharmacists in over 60,000 pharmacies and will provide them with information so that they may refer parents to state health insurance programs.

Involving Teachers and Child Care Referral Centers:

- The National Education Association is launching an unprecedented campaign to educate teachers on how they can inform children and their families about health insurance, through national newsletters, conferences, and special training sessions.

- The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, which help over 1.5 million parents a year to find child care, will launch a campaign to inform parents of health insurance options for their children.

Strengthening Grassroots Efforts to Sign Up Uninsured Children:

- The Children's Defense Fund is disseminating information to over 10,000 individuals and organizations on state plans to enroll more children in coverage.

- The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has increased its *Start Healthy, Stay Healthy* campaign, which works with community organizations, schools, child care programs, health clinics, and hospitals on ways to identify eligible children and get them enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.

- Families USA is providing technical assistance to advocates nationwide to devise innovative strategies to enroll more children.

- The March of Dimes has committed funds to support demonstration projects to help states plan or implement creative outreach initiatives to reach and enroll children.

- The Children's Health Fund is organizing a major outreach campaign designed to enroll eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP, in order to reach an additional 50,000 uninsured children.

President Clinton
Improving the Health of Our Nation's Children

<u>Proposed New Incentives To Encourage Medicaid Enrollment.</u> The President's FY1999 budget invests $900 million over 5 years in children's health outreach policies, including the use of schools and child care centers to enroll children in Medicaid. The budget provides states with the option of automatically enrolling children in Medicaid even before having received all of the complicated eligibility and enrollment forms (a provision known as "presumptive eligibility"). It also expands the use of a Federally-financed administrative fund so that it can underwrite the costs for <u>all</u> uninsured children — not just the limited population allowed under current law.

<u>Enacted Single Largest Investment in Children's Health Care since 1965.</u> The Balanced Budget that President Clinton signed into law on August 5, 1997 included $24 billion for the President's Children's Health Initiative -- the single largest investment in health care for children since the passage of Medicaid in 1965. The Children's Health Initiative will provide meaningful health care coverage to up to five million currently uninsured children -- including prescription drugs, vision, hearing, and mental health services.

<u>Passed Meaningful Health Insurance Reform</u>. The President signed the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act which limits exclusions for pre-existing conditions, makes coverage portable and helps individuals who lose jobs maintain coverage. This law helps millions of children keep their health care coverage when their parents lose or change jobs.

<u>Raised Immunization Rates to All Time High.</u> Ninety percent or more of America's toddlers in 1996 received the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines -- surpassing the goal set by the President in 1993. In July 1997, President Clinton proposed new child care regulations to ensure that children in child care receive the immunizations they need on time. The proposed rule would require that all children in federally subsidized child care be immunized according to state public health agency standards. This proposed regulation will particularly affect those children in child care arrangements that are legal but exempt from state licensing requirements.

<u>Ensured that Prescription Drugs Will Be Adequately Tested for Children</u>. President Clinton announced an important Food and Drug Administration regulation requiring manufacturers to do studies on pediatric populations for new prescription drugs -- and those currently on the market -- to ensure that prescription drugs have been adequately tested for the unique needs of children.

<u>Helped Protect Children From Environment Health Risks</u>. Last year, the President signed an Executive Order to reduce environmental health and safety risks to children by requiring agencies to strengthen policies and improve research to protect children and ensure that new regulations consider special risks to children.

<u>Established Protections for Mothers and Their Newborns</u>. The President spearheaded legislation requiring insurance companies to cover at least 48 hour hospital stays following most normal deliveries and 96 hours after a Caesarean section. This legislation ensures that mothers and babies do not leave the hospital before they and their doctors decide they are ready.

February 18, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
THE SECRETARY OF LABOR
THE SECRETARY OF TREASURY
THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY

SUBJECT: Children's Health Insurance Outreach

Over 10 million children are currently uninsured and, as a consequence, often cannot afford much-needed health care services such as doctor visits, prescription drugs or, hospital care, when necessary. Last year, with bipartisan support, we took a major step toward solving this problem. The Balanced Budget Act I signed into law last summer enacted the largest single expansion of children's health insurance in 30 years. The new Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides $24 billion over 5 years for coverage of millions of uninsured children in working families. It builds on the Medicaid program, which currently covers nearly 20 million poor children across the country.

We now face the serious task of enrolling uninsured children in both Medicaid and state-administered children's health programs. We know that well over 3 million uninsured children are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid. This is largely due to a lack of knowledge about Medicaid eligibility and the difficulty of the enrollment process. These same problems could limit the potential of the Children's Health Insurance Program to successfully enroll millions of uninsured children.

To ensure that both Medicaid and CHIP fulfil their potential, I am calling for a nationwide children's health outreach initiative involving both the private and public sectors. As illustrated by my announcement today, foundations, corporations, health care providers, consumer advocates and others in the private sector are already responding to our challenge to make every effort to enroll uninsured children in Medicaid or CHIP. In the public sector, the Administration's FY 1999 budget proposal includes policies to give States the flexibility and funding they need to conduct innovative outreach activities. I also have directed the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to continue their focused effort to promote outreach through administrative actions.

There is clearly more that the Federal Government can do to help the States and the private sector achieve our mutual goal of targeting and providing coverage to uninsured children. Many children who lack health insurance are the same children who benefit from the programs your agency administers. Eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP is often similar to that for programs like WIC, Food Stamps, Head Start, tax programs, job training, welfare to work, Social Security programs, public housing sites and homeless initiatives. Thus, a coordinated effort across Federal agencies is critical to the success of the Administration and the States to provide health care coverage for children.

Therefore, to increase enrollment of uninsured children in Medicaid and CHIP, I hereby direct you to take the following actions consistent with the mission of your agency.

First, I direct you to identify all of the employees and grantees of your agency's programs who are likely to come in contact with low-income, uninsured children who may be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP.

Second, I direct you to develop and implement an educational strategy aimed to ensure that appropriate employees and grantees are fully informed about these programs' availability to our nation's children.

Third, I direct your agency to develop an agency-specific plan as part of an Administration-wide, intensive children's health outreach plan. This plan should include distributing information and educating families about their options; coordinating toll-free numbers and other sources of information on public programs; simplifying, coordinating and where possible unifying the application forms and process for related public programs; and working with State and local agencies on broadening the locations where families can apply for Medicaid and/or CHIP.

Fourth, I direct you to identify any statutory or regulatory impediments in your programs to conducting children's health outreach.

Finally, I direct the Department of Health and Human Services to serve as the coordinating agency to assist in the development and integration of agencies' plans and to report back to me on each agency's plan in 90 days with recommendations and a suggested implementation timetable. In so doing, I direct the Department to ensure that cross-Administration activities are complementary, aggressive and consistent with the overall initiative to cover uninsured children.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE INITIATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
FEBRUARY 18, 1998

Acknowledgments: The First Lady, Sec. Shalala, [parent]

Last month, in my State of the Union, I asked the American people to strengthen our nation for the 21st century. It's a challenge for our government, our schools, and our families. And it is a challenge that is being met with no greater urgency than by the men and women of this hospital who work tirelessly to restore our most fragile children back to health, to give many of them second chances at life. This is a place where American medicine shines and miracles happen every day.

But it shouldn't take a miracle to ensure all children get the care and insurance they need to stay healthy. America's health care system is the finest in the world. But for millions of hard-working families, affording even the most basic health insurance has been nearly impossible. At the same time, millions of families who are already eligible still do not know they qualify for Medicaid.

Last summer's historic balanced budget agreement gave us an unprecedented opportunity to change this situation, to bring health insurance to more of our children and peace of mind to their parents. It's an opportunity we cannot afford to waste.

Our new children's health initiative is the remarkable product of a new vision of government. We recognized that if we were going to go strong into the next century, we had to put our fiscal house in order. But we also recognized that we had to do this in a way that didn't forsake our oldest values or weaken our families.

As a result, we have a balanced budget and made the most significant commitment to children's health care in over a generation. But these new laws will be just words on paper unless we act to bring the health care to our children. It would be a terrible tragedy if we were to allow ignorance about Medicaid eligibility to keep a child from getting the medical care she needed. All of us have an obligation -- an urgent duty -- to see to it that every single child who is eligible takes advantage of this unprecedented investment in their health and in their future.

I've come here to say that we -- the federal government -- will do our part. But states, businesses, and individual citizens must also step to the plate.

So today, I am launching an all-out effort to let every family know about the health insurance -- whether it's Medicaid or another program -- that is currently or soon will be available to their children. In a few minutes, I will sign an executive memorandum directing the seven Federal agencies who run children's programs to cooperate in a comprehensive effort to make sure that every family gets the information they need to enroll their children -- whether it's from agency employees or pamphlets, toll-free numbers or simplified application forms.

And I call on Congress to pass the new funds I am requesting in my next balanced budget to help states publicize their new programs and enroll children in Medicaid automatically -- even as they wait for final approval of their applications.

Next, every state must take responsibility for ensuring that every eligible child within their borders gets insured. Medicaid is one of the best ways we can expand health insurance coverage to more children -- and it's a state-run program. I am pleased to announce that Colorado and South Carolina will join Alabama as the first states to insure children whose parents' incomes place them above the poverty level but are still too small to afford insurance. We must not rest until all 50 states have followed their lead.

Finally, the private sector must help us get the job done. Many businesses and private foundations have already joined our efforts. Bell Atlantic will establish and operate a new 800-number that will direct families to the state agencies in charge of Medicaid. Drug store chains have agreed to put the 800-number on their shopping bags. Pampers has agreed to include a letter in their birth education packages. I thank all of you for being exemplary corporate citizens.

And I want to thank the Kaiser Family Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, America's Promise, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Hospital Association and the Nation Education Association for devising their own outreach efforts and working with us to spread the word about the children's health initiative.

This is an extraordinary partnership to ensure that every child gets the health coverage he or she needs to have a fair and healthy start at life. But it is only a first step. I challenge every parent, grandparent, doctor, nurse, health care provider, teacher, business leader, and community across America to find new ways to reach children who can be covered by Medicaid or the new children's health insurance programs.

Hillary and I know from experience that nothing can weigh more heavily on a parent's mind than a child's illness. Even the slightest cough, the most minor accident on the playground, can cause a great deal of worry. I can't even imagine what it would be like to also have to worry about finding the money to pay for the medical care my child would need to get better. Too many parents live with these worries every day, live with the impossible choice of buying medicine for a sick child or putting food on the table for the rest of the family. Let us all work to make sure that these are dilemmas no family will ever have to face in the 21st Century.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1998
FINAL

WASHINGTON,D.C./DALLAS,TX/FT. WORTH,TX/AUSTIN,TX/WASHINGTON,D.C.

TRAVELING PARTY:	KELLY CRAIGHEAD	
	MARSHA BERRY	
	SHARON FARMER (Will fly commercial to Austin, TX)	
	CAPRICIA MARSHALL	
	GARRY MAURO (Dallas-Ft.Worth-Austin)	
	MARK PENN (DC-Dallas-Ft.Worth-Austin)	
	GOVERNOR ANN RICHARDS (Dallas-Ft.Worth-Austin)	
	ROY SPENCE (Dallas-Ft.Worth-Austin)	
DALLAS-FT. WORTH LEAD ADVANCE:	SAM MYERS	ROOM 1407
	ADAMS MARK HOTEL	
	214/922-8000	PHONE
	214/969-7650	FAX
	800/SKYPAGE	PIN #216-8142
	202/395-1609	CELL
DALLAS SITE ADVANCE:	GREG HALE	ROOM 518
	ERICA ROSE	ROOM 1703
	ADAMS MARK HOTEL	
DALLAS PRESS LEAD:	WHITNEY WILLIAMS	ROOM 1804
	ADAMS MARK HOTEL	
FT. WORTH SITE ADVANCE:	SHARON KENNEDY GILL	ROOM 2105
	ADAMS MARK HOTEL	
AUSTIN LEAD ADVANCE:	BAIN ENNIS	ROOM 1230
	RADISSON HOTEL	
	512/478-9611	PHONE
	512/473-8399	FAX
	800/SKYPAGE	PIN #210-3261
AUSTIN SITE ADVANCE:	BRIDGER MCGAW	ROOM 1220
	RADISSON HOTEL	
AUSTIN PRESS LEAD:	LEIGH FLORES	ROOM 1228
	RADISSON HOTEL	
SCHEDULER:	WENDY ARENDS	
	202/456-7007	PHONE
	202/456-5340	FAX
	202/518-8209	HOME
	WHCA PAGER	

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

PREV RON	The White House
9:10am	**DEPART** South Portico **VIA** Motorcade **EN ROUTE** Andrews Air Force Base [drive time: 20 minutes]
9:30am	**ARRIVE** Andrews Air Force Base
9:45am	**WHEELS UP** Andrews Air Force Base **EN ROUTE** Love Field [flight time: 3 hours, 5 minutes] [time change: -1 hour] Note: Breakfast will be served
11:50am	**WHEELS DOWN** Love Field **CLOSED PUBLIC/CLOSED PRESS** **GREETERS:** Garry Mauro Governor Ann Richards Representative Johnson Mayor Ron Kirk Roy Spence
12:00pm	**DEPART** Love Field **VIA** Motorcade **EN ROUTE** Le Meridien Hotel [drive time: 10 minutes]
12:10pm	**ARRIVE** Le Meridien Hotel **PROCEED** to Hold **GREETERS:** Larry Saward, General Manager Peggy Benau, Hotel Manager
12:10pm- 12:15pm	**HOLD** Le Meridien Hotel 650 N. Pearl Street HRC Hold: Champagne Room (left side) Phone: 214/855-1795 Staff Hold: Champagne Room (right side) Phone: 214/855-1736 Fax: 214/855-1745

12:15pm-
12:45pm

RECEPTION
Plaza Ballroom
Le Meridien Hotel
OPEN PRESS/MAURO PHOTO

FORMAT:

- Ann Richards, Garry Mauro, and the First Lady are announced onto stage.

- Ann Richards makes welcoming remarks and introduces Garry Mauro.

- Garry Mauro makes remarks and introduces the First Lady.

- The First Lady makes remarks.

- Upon conclusion of the First Lady's remarks, Ann Richards invites the audience to sing "Happy Birthday" to Garry Mauro and a cake is unveiled.

- Upon conclusion of "Happy Birthday", the First Lady and Garry Mauro work a ropeline.

PARTICIPANTS: approximately 500-800 people

12:50pm-
1:30pm

LUNCHEON
Windows Restaurant
Le Meridien Hotel
HRC Hold: Room 1
Phone: 214/978-2544
Fax: 214/978-0163
CLOSED PRESS/MAURO PHOTO

FORMAT:

- Ann Richards, Garry Mauro, and the First Lady are announced into the room and proceed to their tables.

- Lunch is served.

- Ann Richards makes welcoming remarks and introduces Garry Mauro.
- Garry Mauro makes remarks and introduces the First Lady.
- The First Lady proceeds onto stage and makes remarks.
- Upon conclusion of the First Lady's remarks, Garry Mauro and the First Lady work a ropeline.

PARTICIPANTS: approximately 100 people

1:35pm **DEPART** Le Meridien Hotel
VIA Motorcade
EN ROUTE MLK, Jr. Child Development Center
[drive time: 10 minutes]

1:45pm **ARRIVE** MLK, Jr. Child Development Center

GREETERS:
Madeline Mandell, President & CEO, The Child Care Group
Alvin Wade, Board Chair, The Child Care Group
Roberta Bergman, Senior VP, The Child Care Group
Regen Horchow, Chair-Elect, The Child Care Group
Bobbie Wilson, Director, MLK, Jr. Child Development Center

1:45pm-2:00pm **CLASSROOM VISIT**
MLK, Jr. Child Development Center
2922 Martin Luther King Boulevard
HRC Hold: Teacher's Office
Phone: 214/670-8426
Fax: 214/670-8467
Staff Hold: Director's Office
Phone: 214/670-8427
POOL PRESS/WH PHOTO

FORMAT:

- The First Lady, Representative Johnson, Madeline Mandell, and Bobbie Wilson visit a classroom and observe 17 children, ages 3-5, participating in various activities.

- Instructors Bobbie Blair and Wyala Asberry-Mondy describe the Center's programs.

- Upon conclusion, the First Lady proceeds to an activity room to say hello to 118 children, ages 3-5.

- The First Lady is presented with flowers and the children sing a song.

PARTICIPANTS:
The First Lady
Representative Johnson
Madeline Mandell, CEO & President,
The Child Care Group
Bobbie Wilson, Director,
MLK, Jr. Child Development Center
Bobbie Blair, Instructor
Wyala Asberry, Instructor

2:00pm-
2:30pm

CHILD CARE EVENT
Activity Room
MLK, Jr. Child Development Center
2922 Martin Luther King Boulevard
HRC Hold: Manager's Office
Phone: 214/670-8363
Staff Hold: Gym
Phone: 214/670-8372
OPEN PRESS/WH PHOTO

FORMAT:

- Bobbie Wilson, Director, MLK Child Development Center, announces Mayor Ron Kirk, Madeline Mandell, Representative Johnson, and the First Lady onto stage.

- Mayor Ron Kirk makes welcoming remarks and introduces Madeline Mandell, President and CEO, The Child Care Group.
- Madeline Mandell makes brief remarks and introduces Representative Johnson.
- Representative Johnson makes remarks and introduces the First Lady.
- The First Lady makes remarks.
- Upon conclusion of her remarks, the First Lady departs.

2:35pm **DEPART** MLK, Jr. Child Care Center
VIA Motorcade
EN ROUTE Ft. Worth, TX
[drive time: 30 minutes]

3:05pm **ARRIVE** Eddleman McFarland Historical House

GREETERS:
Speaker Jim Wright
Betty Wright
Barbara Willis, McFarland House Representative
Dwain Dent
Marilyn Dent

3:15pm-
3:55pm **RECEPTION**
Eddleman McFarland Historical House
1110 Penn Street
HRC Hold: Basement Office
Phone: 817/332-5875
Fax: 817/332-5877
Staff Hold: Basement
CLOSED PRESS/MAURO PHOTO

FORMAT:

- Ann Richards, Garry Mauro, and the First Lady arrive the reception and proceed to a photo receiving line.

- Upon conclusion of the photo receiving line, Ann Richards, Garry Mauro, and the First Lady proceed to the stage area.

- Ann Richards makes welcoming remarks and introduces Garry Mauro.

- Garry Mauro makes remarks and introduces the First Lady.

- The First Lady makes remarks.

- Upon conclusion of her remarks, the First Lady departs.

PARTICIPANTS: approximately 70 people

3:55pm **DEPART** the Eddleman McFarland House
VIA Motorcade
EN ROUTE Meachan Airport
[drive time: 15 minutes]

4:10pm **ARRIVE** Meachan Airport

4:20pm **WHEELS UP** Meachan Airport
EN ROUTE Austin, TX
[flight time: 45 minutes]

5:05pm **WHEELS DOWN** Austin, TX
CLOSED PRESS/CLOSED PUBLIC

5:15pm **DEPART** Austin International Airport
VIA Motorcade
EN ROUTE the Four Seasons Hotel
[drive time: 20 minutes]

5:35pm **ARRIVE** Four Seasons Hotel
PROCEED to Hold
HRC Hold: Presidential Suite, 9th floor
Phone: 512/478-4500
Fax: 512/478-3117
Staff Hold: Stone's Crossing

GREETERS:
Paul Cherrett, General Manager
Steve Marley, Director of Catering
Karl Schmidlechner, Banquet Manager

5:35pm **DOWN TIME**
6:00pm

6:00pm- **RECEPTION**
6:30pm Ballroom
Four Seasons Hotel
98 San Jacinto Boulevard
OPEN PRESS/MAURO PHOTO

FORMAT:

- Mayor Kirk Watson introduces Ann Richards, Garry Mauro, and the First Lady onto stage.

- Ann Richards makes remarks and introduces Garry Mauro.

- Garry Mauro makes remarks and introduces the First Lady.

- The First Lady makes remarks.

- Upon conclusion of the First Lady's remarks, Ann Richards invites the audience to sing "Happy Birthday" to Garry Mauro and a cake is brought out by Garry Mauro's children.

- Upon conclusion of "Happy Birthday", the First Lady and Garry Mauro work a ropeline.

PARTICIPANTS: approximately 600 people

6:35pm **PROCEED** up one floor to Stone's Crossing for police/volunteer photos.

6:40pm- **DINNER**
7:40pm San Jacinto Ballroom
CLOSED PRESS/MAURO PHOTO

FORMAT:

- Ann Richards, Garry Mauro, and the First Lady proceed to a photo receiving line with 100 people.

- Upon conclusion of photo receiving line, Ann Richards, Garry Mauro, and the First Lady proceed to their tables.

- Dinner is served.

- Ann Richards is announced onto stage, makes remarks and introduces Garry Mauro.

- Garry Mauro makes remarks and introduces the First Lady.

- The First Lady proceeds to the stage and makes remarks.

- Upon conclusion of the First Lady's remarks, Garry Mauro exits the room with the First Lady and the First Lady departs the hotel.

PARTICIPANTS: approximately 100 people

7:40pm **DEPART** Four Seasons Hotel
VIA Motorcade
EN ROUTE Austin Airport
[drive time: 15 minutes]

7:55pm **ARRIVE** Austin International Airport

8:00pm **WHEELS UP** from Austin, TX
EN ROUTE Andrews Air Force Base
[flight time: 2 hours, 35 minutes]
[time change: +1 hour]
Note: Dinner will be served

11:35pm **WHEELS DOWN** Andrews Air Force Base

11:45pm **DEPART** Andrews Air Force Base

VIA Motorcade
EN ROUTE The White House
[drive time: 20 minutes]

12:05am **ARRIVE** The White House

RON The White House

February 18, 1998

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER VISIT

DATE:	Thursday, February 19
TIME:	1:45 pm - 2:30 pm
LOCATION:	M.L.K., Jr. Child Development Center Dallas, TX
FROM:	Brenda Costello

I. PURPOSE

To participate in an event with Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, highlighting a successful child care program and underscoring the President's recent child care initiatives.

II. BACKGROUND

You will visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Child Development Center in Dallas on Thursday afternoon with Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson to highlight a successful child care program. Martin Luther King, Jr. Child Development Center is part of the *Child Care Group* of Dallas, a non-profit child care organization founded in 1901 serving the greater Dallas metropolitan area. The Child Care Group practices *Relationship-Centered Child Care*, a unique approach to child care organized around the development and maintenance of positive relationships between young children, parents and caregivers.

<u>The Child Care Group</u>

The Child Care Group (CCG) operates five child development centers, four of which serve low-income families, and plans to open 3 additional sites in 1998. Serving over 30,000 families annually, the CCG is funded through a variety of public and private sources. CCG child development centers were the first accredited in Dallas by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The CCG helped create the first child care program for homeless children in Dallas, and received the Excellence in Human Services Programming award by the Community Council of Greater Dallas.

Federal funding comes from Head Start and US Department of Housing and Urban Development, while state and local funding is provided by the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Department of Human Services, and the Dallas Public Schools. Additionally, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and private funds from companies such as Exxon Education Foundation, IBM, Texas Instruments Foundation and the Fannie Mae Foundation help fund the Group.

The CCG also provides family child care, sponsor independent child care providers, and serve as a resource and referral system to assist working parents identify appropriate child care.

Relationship-Centered Child Care

This approach was developed by the Child Care Group in response to the new realities of an increasing number of children spending more of their early developmental years in child care than with their families, and the lack of affordable, quality child care. In Dallas County, regulated child care spaces are available for only 35 percent of children with working parents -- the second **highest** availability rate for the counties surrounding Dallas. The lowest is Denton County, where only 17 percent have regulated spaces; the highest is Collins county, where still only 54 percent have available spaces.

Children are cared for in family groups - nine children of mixed ages with one caregiver. As in families, siblings spend the day together and learn from each other. Unlike many child care programs, children do not have a new caregiver each year. Emphasis is placed on providing close, meaningful relationships with those who care for them to serve as a "meaningful foundation for a healthy start in life ..... in order for children to develop the capacities for conscience and success in school."

Each group of nine children has a *constant caregiver* who develops an individual curriculum for each child and who relates primarily to them and their families, with parental involvement emphasized. Each child stays with the same teacher for up to three years. Staff turnover is low - the staff at the Martin Luther King Jr. Child Development Center have been there an average of ten years. The Child Care Group pays above market salaries, offers benefits typically not available to child care providers, and provides on the job training and tuition reimbursement for college courses.

Results

Data through eighth grade show that "graduates" of the CCG's Relationship-Centered Child Care program score better than their peers in the same Dallas Public Schools on standardized achievement tests of reading and language, and are less frequently retained in grade.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Child Development Center

One of five centers operated by the Child Care Group, The MLK, Jr. Child Development Center began in 1969 and relocated to the MLK, Jr. community center when the center was completed. It was the first child development center in Texas to combine United Way monies with federal Title XX funds, creating a model replicated throughout the state that allowed thousands of low-income families to have decent, affordable child care.

Practicing Relationship-Centered Child Care, the center serves 142 children (at capacity) ages three to five in a full-day, full-year program . The children are grouped in two clusters with four classrooms each, with 18 children per class. Two caregivers oversee each class, assisted by two Foster Grandparents of Greater Dallas.

Funding for the center is provided by a variety of sources. In addition to funding from the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, this center receives federal funds from Head Start and the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program during the school year, and Title IV-A At-Risk funds and small parent fees collected on a sliding scale during the summer. The facility is operated by the City of Dallas, while the Child Care Group operates the MLK, Jr. Child Development Center.

Virtually all of the families served by the center are low-income families, primarily working parents. Given this high number of low-income families who utilize the center, the MLK, Jr. Child Development Center is an example of more low-income families that would receive subsidies under the President's recent Child Care initiative.

Format

Thursday's event will be comprised of a visit to a classroom and a short speaking program. You will observe 18 children engaged in a variety of activities - arts and crafts, lunch preparation or possibly music - while the caregivers describe the program. Next you will stop-by an activities room to say hello to the remaining 118 children at the center.

You will then proceed to the Activities Room, located one block away, for the speaking program. An audience of approximately 125 people includes primarily guests of Rep. Johnson and a small group of guests of the Child Care Group (see profiles attached).

III. PARTICIPANTS

Classroom Visit

-The First Lady
-Bobbie Wilson, Director, MLK, Jr. Child Development Center
-Bobbie Blair, Caregiver
-Wyala Asberry-Mondy, Caregiver
-Madeline Mandell, President and CEO, The Child Care Group

Speaking Program

-The First Lady
-Bobbie Wilson, Director, MLK, Jr. Child Development Center
-Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk
-Madeline Mandell, President and CEO, The Child Care Group
-Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- The First Lady, Representative Johnson, Madeline Mandell, and Bobbie Wilson visit a classroom and observe 17 children, ages 3-5, participating in various activities.
- Instructors Bobbie Blair and Wyala Asberry-Mondy describe the Center's programs.
- Upon conclusion, the First Lady proceeds to an activity room to say hello to 118 children.
- The First Lady is presented with flowers and the children sing a song.

-- *Speaking Program*

- Bobbie Wilson, Director, MLK Child Development Center, announces Mayor Kirk, Madeline Mandell, Representative Johnson, and the First Lady onto stage.
- Mayor Ron Kirk makes welcoming remarks and introduces Madeline Mandell, President and CEO, The Child Care Group.
- Madeline Mandell makes brief remarks and introduces Representative Johnson.
- Representative Johnson makes remarks and introduces the First Lady.
- The First Lady makes remarks.
- Upon conclusion of her remarks, the First Lady departs.

V. PRESS

Classroom Visit: Pool press/WH Photo.
Speaking Program: Open press / WH. Photo.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Christy Macy.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PROPOSAL: CHILD CARE THAT STRENGTHENS AMERICAN FAMILIES

"I am proud to propose the single largest child care investment in the history of our nation. It is a comprehensive and fiscally-responsible plan to make child care more affordable and accessible, to raise the quality and assure the safety of care for millions of American families. This is an issue that touches nearly every family, one that should rise above politics and partisan interests."

President Bill Clinton
January 7, 1998

President Clinton announced an historic initiative to improve child care for America's working families. The initiative proposes over $20 billion over five years for 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.**

ENSURING AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, SAFE CHILD CARE. The President's child care initiative responds to the struggles our nation's working parents face in finding child care they can afford, trust and rely on. The new initiative:

- **Makes child care more affordable for working families.** To help working families struggling to meet the costs of child care, the initiative invests $7.5 billion over five years to double the number of children receiving child care subsidies to more than two million by the year 2003. The initiative also invests $4.8 billion over five years to increase tax credits for child care for three million families and provides a new tax credit for businesses that offer child care services to their employees.

- **Increases access to and promotes early learning and healthy child development.** To improve early learning, the initiative includes $3 billion over five years to establish an Early Learning Fund that helps local communities improve the quality and safety of child care for children ages zero to five. The initiative also increases investment in Head Start and doubles the number of children served by Early Head Start to 80,000.

- **Improves the safety and quality of child care.** To help ensure safe, quality child care, the initiative: steps up enforcement of state health and safety standards in child care settings, facilitates background checks on child care providers, increases scholarships and training for child care providers, and invests in child care research and evaluation.

- **Expands access to safe after-school care.** To help create safe, positive learning environments for American school-age children who lack adult supervision during a typical week, the initiative increases the 21st Century Learning Center Program by $800 million over five years to provide after-school care for up to half a million children a year. The initiative will also improve coordination of federal after-school initiatives to help communities.

Child Care Block Grant Increase		$7.5 billion over five years
Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit Reform		$4.8 billion over five years
Tax Credit for Businesses		$500 million over five years
After-School Program		$800 million over five years
Early Learning Fund		$3.0 billion over five years
Head Start Increase		$3.8 billion over five years
Standards Enforcement Fund		$500 million over five years
Child Care Provider Scholarship Fund		$250 million over five years
Research and Evaluation Fund		$150 million over five years
	TOTAL:	**$21.3 billion over five years**

Makes Child Care More Affordable for Working Families

Doubles the Number of Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies to More than Two Million. The President proposes to expand the Child Care and Development Block Grant to help working families struggling to meet the costs of child care. This block grant is the primary federal subsidy program to pay for child care, enabling low-income parents to work. Funds are distributed by formula to the states to operate direct child care subsidy programs, as well as to improve the quality and availability of care. The President's initiative will more than double the number of children served from the one million served in FY 95 (the latest year for which data are available). The President's budget will increase funding for the block grant by $7.5 billion (with a match) over five years, which will enable states to provide subsidies for more than two million children by 2003.

Increases Tax Credits for Child Care for Three Million Working Families. The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit provides tax relief to taxpayers who pay for the care of a child under 13 or a disabled dependent or spouse in order to work. The credit is equal to a percentage of the taxpayer's employment-related expenditures for child or dependent care, with the amount of the credit depending on the taxpayer's income. The President's proposal increases the credit for families earning under $60,000, providing an additional average tax cut of $358 for these families and eliminating income tax liability for almost all families with incomes below 200% of poverty ($35,000 for a family of four) that take the maximum allowable child care expenses under the law. The President's budget will include $4.8 billion over five years to expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit for three million working families.

Provides New Business Tax Credits. The child care initiative includes a tax credit to businesses that provide child care services for their employees, by building or expanding child care facilities, operating existing facilities, training child care workers, or providing child care resources and referral services to employees. The credit covers 25% of qualified costs, but may not exceed $150,000 per year. The President's budget will include approximately $500 million over five years for these tax credits.

Promotes Early Learning and Healthy Child Development

Promotes Early Learning. Research shows that children's experiences in the earliest years are critical to their development and future success. The President's proposed Early Learning Fund provides challenge grants to communities (distributed by states) to support programs to improve early learning and the quality and safety of child care for children ages zero to five. Funds may be used for the following activities: providing basic training to child care providers (including first aid and CPR); connecting individual child care providers to centers for education and support; assisting child care providers to meet accreditation and licensing requirements; linking child care providers with health professionals; reducing group sizes and child-to-staff ratios; and providing home visits, parent education, and consumer education about child care.

Mike Sheridan
Executive Director

Texas Workforce Commission

Bill Hammond, Chairman
Commissioner Representing Employers
T.P. O'Mahoney
Commissioner Representing Labor
Diane D. Rath
Commissioner Representing the Public

December 31, 1997

Mr. Leon McCowan
Region Director
DHHS/ACF
1301 Young Street
Room 945 FCS-3
Dallas, TX 75202

Dear Mr. McCowan:

Attached is the ACF-700 "Child Care and Development Block Grant Report" for federal fiscal year 1997 for Texas. The report includes the Child Care Annual Aggregate Report - ACF-700 (Page 1) for the period of April 1997 through September 1997. The Expenditures Report (Page 2) reports expenditures for the period of October 1, 1996 through September 30, 1997 for both the CCDBG FY 1995 and FY 1996 grant awards.

Child Care Annual Aggregate Report (Page 1)

The number of families and children receiving child care services is based on actual children for whom the Texas Workforce Commission paid for care. This count is unduplicated, counting each family once, even if they exited and re-entered the program during the reporting period. Columns (b) through (l) indicate the number of children served by the primary type of provider. Children are counted once using the category which serves as the primary caregiver.

The types of care indicated in columns (b), (g), (i), (j), (k) and (l) are not used at this time in the state of Texas. Only two types of unregulated child care by a provider are used, namely, care provided by a relative in the child's home (c), or care provided by a relative in a family home (h).

Consumer education

The estimated number of families receiving consumer education is 27,905. Information regarding child care consumer education is shared with all parents who contact Child Care Management Services (CCMS) contractors. Parents are also provided with information regarding types of care available, such as child care centers, family day homes, group day homes and eligible relatives. CCMS contractors provide information about how the different types of child care available may be suitable to a child's age and/or individual needs, what to look for when visiting child care programs and questions to ask child care providers.

Expenditure Report (Page 2)

The child care and development program in the state, including administration of federal funds for subsidized care, was transferred from the Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS) to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) in June 1996. Expenditures charged to the CCDBG FY 1995 grant award were coordinated with TDHS, since that agency originally received the grant. The CCDBG FY 1996 grant award was fully managed by TWC. This annual report indicates that the CCDBG FY 1995 Grant award is closed out.

Review of licensing minimum standards

State law requires the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS) to conduct a comprehensive review of all minimum standards at least every six years. A review of the standards for Day Care Centers resulted in the adoption of new standards in 1995. Additional revisions to Day Care Center standards addressing space requirements, child/staff ratio and grouping, and wading and splashing activities were implemented in 1997. During the 1998-1999 biennium standards for the following types of care will be reviewed: Group Day Care Homes, Kindergartens and Nursery Schools, Schools- Grade Kindergarten and Above, and Registered Family Homes.

TWC continues its contract with the DPRS for these services:

(1) monitoring and follow-up of Registered Family Homes selected by foster parents to provide DPRS-paid child care to foster children,
(2) monitoring and follow-up of other Registered Family Homes,
(3) licensing and monitoring of independent school district operated child care programs that apply for a CCMS vendor agreement,
(4) statewide initiatives that assist parents and consumers in recognizing and selecting quality child care, and
(5) training of child care providers.

Child care settings and definitions

The numbers of licenses or registrations for each type is shown in parentheses as of the DPRS FY 1996 Annual Report. Minimum standards have been established for the following categories of facilities:

Registered family homes (12,192) provide care for no more than six children under 14 years of age. They also accept up to six more school-age children, after school, as long as the total number of children does not exceed 12 at any given time. This maximum number includes the children related to the caregiver.

Group day-care homes (1,668) provide care for seven to twelve children younger than the age of 14 years for less than 24 hours a day. They have a caregiver and often one or more assistants. A group home is smaller than a center, but larger than a Registered Family Home. The operation is usually in the provider's home but could be in a non-residential setting.

Day-care centers (7,466) provide care for more than 12 children younger than the age of 14 years for less than 24 hours a day. Day-care centers usually operate in a non-residential setting. Some centers are designed for a specific age group, while others serve infants, preschoolers and school-aged children.

Kindergartens and nursery schools (340) provide care for children aged two to seven years for four hours a day or less.

Schools: Grades Kindergarten and Above (86) offer an educational program in one or more grades for children ages 5 through 13 years. A school operates only during the customary public school day.

Initiatives to increase availability of care

TWC continues to form partnerships designed to maximize child care funds and increase availability of care. This is accomplished through transfer, certification, or donor contracts and agreements with private organizations, independent school districts and other government entities. Collaborative efforts with Head Start also continue to increase the length of Head Start programs from part to full-day, and from part year to full year.

Quality improvement projects

Several initiatives to improve the quality of child care services statewide continue under TWC sponsorship.

(1) Child care providers who voluntarily meet a set of program criteria designed to improve program quality are recognized through Designated Vendor certification. These criteria exceed the requirements established by DPRSs for minimum licensing standards.
(2) Child care providers choosing to meet these additional quality criteria have access to limited college courses for caregivers.
(3) Certain kinds of classroom and playground equipment also are provided to these Designated Vendors.
(4) All vendors have access to CCMS Resource Rooms where child development materials and supplies are available on a checkout basis.
(5) Technical assistance sessions help caregivers understand the importance of developmentally appropriate use of classroom materials and equipment.

The Child Care Training (CCT) project provides quality training experiences for all types of child care providers in the state, including relatives who provide self-arranged child care services. CCT contractors across the state conduct training needs assessments and a resource assessment. The CCT contractor will then develop or purchase training designed to meet the identified needs.

TWC has also continued to cooperate with public television to develop or buy child development training series to be aired on public television stations statewide.

The *Texas Child Care* magazine is published quarterly by TWC and sent to more than 27,000 child caregivers statewide. Subscriptions and complimentary copies to TWC field staff, Local Board staff, and DPRS staff bring the total distribution for each issue to about 30,000. The magazine, celebrating twenty years of publication, has increased pages from 44 to 48 this year, and is producing a color cover for the first time.

Other Supplemental Information (Based on available data):

Number of children served

An unduplicated total of 46,288 Texas children were serviced with ACF-funded child care and preschool programs during the period of April 1997 through September 1997. This figure does not include Head Start, which is not administered by TWC.

Child Care Providers

Information collected in spring of 1997 shows a total of 8,366 child care providers, all types of facilities, having vendor agreements with local CCMS contractors to provide child care services to children referred by the contractors. Of these, approximately 25% are certified as meeting quality criteria exceeding minimum licensing requirements.

94TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

January 23, 1997, Thursday, HOME FINAL EDITION

SECTION: BUSINESS; BUSINESS DAY; Pg. 11D

LENGTH: 866 words

HEADLINE: ABC segment highlights work of Dallas' Child Care Group

BYLINE: Robert Miller

BODY:

Set your TV dial - or your VCR if you plan to be elsewhere - for 5:30 p.m. Thursday on WFAA-TV (Channel 8).

ABC's World News Tonight with Peter Jennings will enlighten the nation concerning what everyone in this area already knows, that The Child Care Group based in Dallas is one of the nation's, nay the world's, premier leaders in the field of child care theory and practice.

This nearly century-old United Way affiliate will be featured in the newscast's "Solutions" segment, with ABC's Peggy Wehmeyer, who formerly covered religion for Channel 8, doing the reporting, says Child Care senior vice president Roberta Bergman.

Mrs. Bergman says, "The segment focuses on our unique relationship-centered child care model. It includes an interview with Sonya Bemporad, also a senior vice president who addressed an international child care conference in Helsinki, Finland, last year , and was taped at two of our child care centers: The Solana Child Development Center in Westlake in northeast Tarrant County and the Landauer Child Development Center in East Dallas.

"The Solana center, which opened in 1991, serves employees of a number of companies at the Solana office complex and residents of the neighboring communities - Trophy Club, Southlake, Colleyville, et cetera.

"Parents pay the full cost of the program - IBM Corp. and Maguire Thomas Partners, the Solana developer, paid for the center's development.

"Landauer serves low-income families in East Dallas. Over 30 years old, it is supported primarily by the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and Head Start of Greater Dallas.

"Both centers' programs are designed around the development and maintenance of close, continuous relationships among children, their families and caregivers. Both, as is the case with all Child Care Group centers, are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children."

Madeline Mandell is president and CEO of The Child Care Group.

A free community-building conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday at the Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood at Northwest Highway, sponsored by Church Women United and the Dallas chapter of the League

41ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

October 24, 1997, Friday, HOME FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 3A

LENGTH: 616 words

HEADLINE: Clinton proposes $ 300 million to better child-care training, pay

BYLINE: From Staff and Wire Reports

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

WASHINGTON - President Clinton proposed a $ 300 million program of scholarships Thursday to improve the training and raise the wages of day-care workers and promised to unveil early next year a broader plan to improve child care across the country.

The proposal was among several offered by the president at a daylong White House conference on child care. Experts described a system suffering from poor quality, high costs and a lack of accessible care, particularly for infants and school-age children.

"Too often, child care is unaffordable, inaccessible and sometimes even unsafe," Mr. Clinton said. "Even for those who can afford it, sometimes good care is hard to find."

The conference, which brought together state and federal officials, business leaders and child-care advocates, is the first high-profile effort to find solutions to a problem affecting millions of American families.

Advocates have argued that only a major investment by government or the private sector can address the fundamental problem: Parents simply cannot afford to pay the cost of high-quality care.

But the president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton suggested that a large-scale federal program was not the answer.

Instead, they explored solutions that relied more on public-private partnerships and efforts by businesses to help make child care more available to their workers.

In addition to the scholarship program, the president proposed legislation that would make it easier to conduct background checks on child-care providers, announced the formation of a group of business leaders to spur private investment in child care and said volunteers in the Corporation for National Service would help improve after-school care programs.

Roberta Bergman, senior vice president of The Child Care Group in Dallas, said the conference should spark dialogue on child-care issues.

(not at White House - likely attended a satellite session)

"It's wonderful that this is being spotlighted," said Ms. Bergman, who a-nded the Washington conference. "But there's got ~~to be targeted and ined follow-up."~~

ny of the officials who spoke at the forum, she said, did a good job of identifying the child-care issues: the lack of quality at many centers and the crisis of affordability for poor families.

And they called for changes, such as better training for child-care workers and more state involvement.

But those ideas are not new to people in the child-care industry, said Ms. Bergman, whose group advocates reorganizing center-based child care around caregiver-child relationships.

Mr. Clinton said he would unveil in his State of the Union speech in January a more comprehensive child-care plan.

The scholarship proposal, which will be included in the president's budget package next year, would provide at least $ 250 million in federal funds over five years.

State, local or private sources would contribute one dollar for every four federal dollars they received, bringing the total to about $ 300 million. States would use the money to design programs to help providers earn credits toward an early-childhood education credential, certificate or college degree.

A portion of the scholarship fund would go to increase wages or pay a bonus workers complete their course work.

ngressional reaction to the proposals was mixed.

Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., chairman of the subcommittee that handles child care, wrote Mr. Clinton that he should wait to see the effect of last year's welfare law before doing more. But a bipartisan group of legislators attending the conference promised action next year on a major initiative.

The Washington Post, Associated Press and staff writer Barbara Kessler in Dallas contributed to this report.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: October 26, 1997

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS AT MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
DALLAS, TEXAS
FEBRUARY 19, 1998

Acknowledgments (To be provided.)

I'm so glad to be here in Dallas, with Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson and all of you, and to have this opportunity to visit the Martin Luther King Jr. Child Development Center, which has become such a model program. Rep. Johnson represents a long tradition of committed, outspoken Texan women, whose tireless work has done so much to improve the lives of citizens in this state. I know Congresswoman Johnson has been a key supporter of this Center and many like it across Texas. (Madeline Mandell, president of the Child Care Group, said Rep. Johnson "threw herself in front of the train" to preserve quality, affordable child care here in Texas.) She's also been a strong voice in Congress on behalf of America's children -- working, among other things, to protect them from violent crimes, and promoting an end to the cruel practices of child sweatshop labor.

And I'm pleased that so many other powerful advocates for families and children here in Texas have been able to join us for this important event today.

Having just walked through this Center, I can see that this is clearly a place where children can grow and learn and get the love and attention they need to succeed. A key to your success -- and one of the reasons you have become such a model program -- is your commitment to developing stable, nurturing, loving relationships with your children.

At last year's White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning, we heard that science confirms what all of us here have always intuitively known: that the love and attention children receive in these critical early years have a direct impact on the development of the brain, and dramatically affect how children learn and develop over a lifetime. That's why the work of this Center -- and its emphasis on child-centered relationships -- is so important.

I'd like to commend The Child Care Group, which has become such a positive force here in Texas on behalf of children and families, and which has helped to establish quality child development centers like this one -- through strong public/private partnerships. You should be proud that studies show "graduates" of your child care programs are doing well in school.

In today's world, we know that many parents choose to stay at home to raise their children. Yet more and more, parents are working outside the home -- by choice or by necessity. We need to support families in whatever decisions they make. But unfortunately, too many parents are left to cobble together a patchwork quilt of care that doesn't meet their needs, or the needs of their children. In many communities, parents can find the quality child care they need. And even if it's available, it's often out of reach financially for many of today's families. There are also millions of school age kids who don't have a safe, stimulating place to go after school -- during those hours in the day when they're at such high risk of becoming involved in crime, drugs or alcohol.

For all of these reasons, the President has placed child care and after school care squarely at the top of our nation's agenda. He's committed to giving parents more resources and choices to succeed at the most important job they have -- raising their children. And he's committed to ensuring more working families have the opportunity to put their children in quality programs like we've seen here today -- programs that not only give children a good and healthy start in life, but provide parents the peace of mind they need to be productive workers.

The President's historic initiative to improve child care for America's working families proposes to invest over $20 billion over the next five years for child care -- the largest such investment in our nation's history. In responding to the needs of families like the ones we've seen here, the new initiative would:

- make child care more affordable for America's working families (by investing $7.5 billion over five years to double the number of children receiving child care subsidies to more than two million by the year 2003; by providing greater tax relief to 3 million families; and by giving businesses new tax credits for offering child care services to their employees);

- promote early learning and healthy child development (by providing $3 billion over five years to establish an Early Learning Fund that helps local communities to improve the quality and safety of child care for children up to five years old and to promote early learning, through efforts like home visits; by increasing investments in Head Start; and by doubling the number of children served by Early Head Start);

- improve the safety and quality of child care (by stepping up enforcement of state health and safety standards; facilitating background checks for child care providers; and increasing scholarships and training to child care providers;)

- expand access to safe after school care (by increasing the 21st Century Learning Center Program by $800 million over the next five years, which would provide after-school programs for up to half a million children a year).

So today, I urge all of you to keep strengthening the child care quilt that we're creating in this country so that it's strong enough and beautiful enough to keep our children safe and healthy and ready to learn, and is made in the best American quilting tradition -- of working together to create the best possible product. I know we all look forward to working with leaders in Congress like Congresswoman Johnson, as well as our community and business leaders, to make quality child care more affordable and accessible to America's working families. We owe it to ourselves. But most of all, we owe it to our children.

The President's Early Learning Fund builds on state initiatives such as North Carolina's Smart Start, which helps North Carolina's children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Smart Start funds a broad variety of local efforts, including improving staff-to-child ratios, health linkages that have raised immunization rates, and parent education and mentoring programs to give new parents support. The President's budget will include $3 billion over five years for this fund.

Increases Investment in Head Start and Doubles the Number of Children Served by Early Head Start. Head Start provides early, continuous and comprehensive child development and family support services, preparing children for a lifetime of learning and development. The President is committed to reauthorize Head Start and reach one million children by 2002. The President's budget will invest $3.8 billion over five years to keep on track his commitment to serving one million children by 2002, and to double the number of infants and toddlers in Early Head Start to 80,000.

IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF CHILD CARE

Steps Up Enforcement of State Health and Safety Standards. Building on the military's model child care program, this proposed initiative will fund state efforts to improve licensing systems and enforce child care health and safety standards, including by increasing unannounced inspections of child care settings. The President's budget will include $500 million over five years for this program.

Facilitates Background Checks on Child Care Providers. On the day of the White House Conference on Child Care, the President transmitted to Congress the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact, which will facilitate effective background checks on child care providers by eliminating state law barriers to sharing criminal history information for non-criminal purposes. Although the vast majority of child care providers are dedicated to the teaching and nurturing of children, one tragedy in child care is too many. Background checks are an important way to ensure that the people watching our children are fit for this responsibility.

Increases Scholarships and Training for Child Care Providers. At the White House Conference on Child Care, the President proposed establishing a Child Care Provider Scholarship Fund to enable states to provide scholarship funds to students working toward a child care credential. Eligible child care workers must commit to remaining in the field for at least one year for each year of assistance received and will earn increased compensation or bonuses when they complete their course work. The President proposed a federal investment of $250 million over five years, which will support 50,000 scholarships per year. The President is also proposing to expand the Department of Labor's Child Care Apprenticeship Program to fund the training of child care providers.

Invests in Research. Because too little is known about our child care system, the President's budget will increase support for data, research, and evaluation. This research fund will also support a National Center on Child Care Statistics and a child care hotline that parents can call to get information about how to find child care in their communities and how to identify appropriate, quality care for their children. In addition, the research fund will support demonstration projects to test approaches to help new parents who choose to stay home to care for their newborns or newly adopted children. The President's budget will include $150 million over five years for this fund.

EXPANDS AND STREAMLINES AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

An estimated five million school-age children spend time as "latchkey kids" without adult supervision during a typical week. Research indicates that during these unsupervised hours children are more likely to engage in at-risk behavior, such as crime, drugs, and alcohol use. To meet this pressing demand, the President is proposing a dramatic expansion of after-school care.

Provides After-School Care for up to Half a Million Children a Year. The President proposes a dramatic expansion of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program to provide start-up funds (with a local match) to school-community partnerships to establish or expand before- and after-school programs for school-age children. The program increases the supply of after-school care in a cost-effective manner primarily by funding programs that use public schools and their existing resources, such as computers, gymnasiums, and sports equipment. The program also includes a set aside to fund programs run by community organizations. The President's budget will request $800 million of entirely new money for this program, for a total of $1 billion over five years.

Improves Coordination of Federal After-School Initiatives to Help Communities Make Best Use of Existing Resources. The President will put in place a collaborative effort involving numerous federal agencies to eliminate duplication and better coordinate federal funding for after-school programs in three to five pilot cities, including the District of Columbia.

Texas Workforce Commission

CHILD CARE RECOMMENDATIONS

Background | Program Components | Issues | Recommendations

Background

There is growing recognition in Texas, and the Nation, that child care services are an essential component of any effort to move low income families from poverty to self-sufficiency. The cost of full time child care for just one child can exceed the costs of food or housing for a family of three. If two children need care while a parent works, the cost can easily amount to over two-thirds of a minimum wage salary.

As the emphasis on moving families from welfare to work has increased, federal and state governments have continued to make additional funds available for child care services. At the federal level this emphasis first resulted in an explosion of new child care funding streams in the period from 1989 through 1991. Texas rapidly responded to the challenge of administering these multiple funding streams. A formal public planning process was initiated in 1989 to design a new delivery system. By early 1991 a consolidated system of 27 management contracts was in place statewide that allowed Texas families easy access to all the new federal child care funds. Over the past several years, this system has proven its effectiveness in ensuring appropriate use of rapidly expanding funds.

During FY 1994 the state re-procured the management contracts for a new cycle of annual contract periods that could be renewed for a total of up to 4 years. In service delivery areas (SDA) where the contract was awarded to a new contractor, a two month period was allowed during which both the old and the new contracts were in place. This assured a smooth transition with no disruption of services.

The Texas model has been repeatedly recognized nationally for its successful management of the complex patchwork of multiple federal child care programs. The model has been adapted for use by several other states. Due to the implementation and successful maintenance of the delivery system, Texas has not had any federal audit exceptions in the child care program. The federal Child Care Bureau considers Texas to be a leader in the planning, management and delivery of federal child care programs and often refers other states to Texas for technical assistance.

Texas has solidified the connection between child care and family self-sufficiency by defining child care as a workforce development program. The Texas Workforce Commission and the Local Workforce Development Boards now have the opportunity to further enhance the delivery of child care services through careful planning for the integration of child care with other workforce programs.

Program Components

While most of the program funding is for the purchase of child care services for eligible families, the state is required by federal law to use a portion of the funds for child care quality improvement initiatives. Under the current program, the purchase of child care services and the purchase of child care classroom resources is managed through the Child Care Management Services (CCMS) contracts. Funds used to train staff who work in child care facilities are managed through a set of 27 Child Care Training (CCT) contracts. These CCT contracts were also last procured in 1994 for a period of up to 4 years.

Issues

There is a strong possibility that the child care program will again experience rapid expansion of funding in the next two fiscal years. Current legislative budget discussion includes the potential for adding funds to serve 15,000 to 20,000 additional children per day. While current waiting lists indicate obvious need for this growth, a stable service delivery system will be essential to ensure these new funds are not lapsed.

In addition to the potential for expanded funding, other significant factors affect current administration of the child care program. The federal laws governing four of the major child care funding streams were recently amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act of 1996. The expressed purpose of the federal amendments was to create a new child care "block grant". However, six distinct funding streams, governed by three federal laws and two federal agencies, remain in the mix of funds Texas uses to purchase child care services. The changes in federal law require a new state plan to be submitted and revisions to be made to existing child care program rules. The full extent of these revisions will not be known until proposed, and then final, federal regulations are published. Existing federal policies include a requirement for parent choice of provider and state assurance of provider compliance with health and safety regulations.

State welfare reform law also impacts the administration of the child care program. While the amendments to federal child care law removed the requirements that child care be guaranteed to JOBS clients and clients who leave cash assistance due to earnings, Texas law still includes these requirements. In fact, Texas law further expanded client eligibility for the "transitional" child care benefits. A likely outcome of current interagency discussions on ways to divert people from cash assistance will be the creation of new client groups eligible for child care services to support employment entry.

House Bill 1863 states that the child care program is to be "block granted" to the Local Workforce Development Boards, along with other workforce programs. Use of this term in the legislation clearly implies that LWDBs are to be given a level of control over the program and funding that assures them the flexibility to meet local and state defined workforce development goals. TWC has received considerable input from stakeholders regarding how this transition should be accomplished. A synopsis of this input is attached to this document. Stakeholders are generally very supportive of building the strong connection between workforce development and child care/child development. Many, however, have expressed concern that, without careful planning at both the state and local levels, the transition could result in a disruption of services to children, their parents and child care providers. Several have commented that they believe the existing service delivery system should be maintained for a transition period while building in more local flexibility to manage the contracts and the funding.

House Bill 1863 also references TWC's participation in the development of a coordinated and comprehensive training program for child care providers. Training provided under the current Child Care Training (CCT) project meets this objective through standards for the content and type of training, the development of caregiver competencies and training qualifications, and requirements to collaborate with all local training entities to avoid duplication and make the best use of funds. Current TWC policy on child care training funds limits their use by contractors for administration.

Recommendations

A public hearing was conducted by TWC in mid January. In early February a focus group meeting was held to discuss issues related to the integration of child care with other workforce programs. Members of the group included LWDB staff, CCMS contractors, child care providers, parents, advocates and TWC field staff. The following recommendations are based on the results of the focus group meeting, an internal staff workgroup, public comments received and further telephone conversations with the Executive Director staff of the LWDBs. These recommendations facilitate a smooth transition from a state designed and managed system to a more locally driven system. They assure continued program compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, while allowing local control over management of the program and local decisions about additional client groups to be served.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(San Francisco, California)

For Immediate Release February 26, 1998

Statement by the President
On Congresswoman Kennelly's Childcare Proposal

Last month, I unveiled my child care initiative to make child care better, safer, and more affordable. Today, I am pleased that Congresswoman Kennelly has introduced comprehensive child care legislation that is also designed to meet the needs of America's children and families. Congresswoman Kennelly's bill is a strong package that, like mine, significantly increases child care subsidies for poor children, provides greater tax relief to help low-and middle-income families pay for child care, creates a tax credit for businesses that provide child care for their employees, increases after-school opportunities for children, promotes early learning, and improves child care quality.

This proposal is a testament to Congresswoman Kennelly's leadership on this issue and her commitment to the future of our nation's children. I look forward to working with her and other Members of Congress to enact bipartisan child care legislation that helps Americans fulfill their responsibilities as workers, and even more important, as parents.

Clinton Presidential Records
Digital Records Marker

Divider Title: **2/26/98**

LEVEL 1 - 39 OF 111 STORIES

Early Childhood Report

February, 1998

SECTION: Vol. 9, No. 2

LENGTH: 842 words

HEADLINE: Clinton Pushes Proposed 20 Billion, Five-year Child Care Package; During His State of the Union Address,

The President Called Child Care Reform 'The Next Frontier'

BODY:

During his State of the Union Address last month, President Clinton reiterated the importance of his initiative to provide approximately 20 billion over five years to increase the affordability, accessible and quality of child care in America.

"Last year, I co-hosted the very first White House Conference on Child Care with one of our foremost experts," Clinton said, a reference to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. "From all corners of America, we heard the same message, without regard to region or income or political affiliation: We've got to raise the quality of child care. We've got to make it safer. We've got to make it more affordable."

Clinton noted the four major prongs in his proposal:

- Help 1 million more families afford and receive quality child care before the year 2000.

- Provide scholarships and background checks for child care workers, with a new emphasis on early learning.

- Offer tax credits for businesses that provide child care for their employees.

- Provide a larger child care tax credit for working families. "By the year 2000, not a single American family should have to choose between the job they need and the children they love," Clinton said.

The president wants to spend approximately 20 billion over five years for various elements of child care, such as helping working families pay for child care, increasing the number of after school programs, improving the safety and quality of care, and promoting early learning.

To promote early learning and child development, the initiative would establish a 3 billion Early Learning Fund to help communities improve the quality and safety of child care for children ages birth to 5. It also would increase investment in Head Start and double to 80,000 the number of students served by Early Head Start. The president also wants to increase enforcement of state health and safety standards in child care settings, including background checks on child care providers.

To make child care more affordable for working families, the plan would invest 7.5 billion to double the number of children receiving child care subsidies, for a total of more than two million by the year 2003.

The initiative also would increase child care tax credits by 5.2 billion over five years. The tax credits would be established on a sliding scale, beginning with a 50 percent tax credit for families making 30,000 or less, and giving a low-end credit of 20 percent for families making 60,000. The credits could be used to offset allowable expenses, with a cap of 2,400 per child and 4,800 per family.

Under the proposed tax credit provisions, 3 million families would get an average of 358 a year in additional tax relief. A family of four making 35,000 with high child care costs would have no federal tax liability, Clinton said. Child care costs considered high, according to the administration, would be 4,000 a year for two children. Businesses would also have a new tax credit that would allow them to claim up to 25 percent of the cost of operating a child care facility, starting a new child care facility, or providing employees with child care subsidies.

The administration is pushing the plan as an opportunity for bipartisan accomplishment, but GOP congressional leaders, while applauding Clinton's commitment to child care, question both the necessity of the plan and its dependence on funds from a pending tobacco settlement.

"The president's proposal, while dramatically increasing funds for child care, unfortunately is largely dependent upon money from a tobacco settlement that does not yet exist," said Sen. Jim Jeffords (R-Vt.), chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

Donna Shalala, Clinton's secretary of health and human services, tried to ease those concerns. "We believe we have bipartisan support for tobacco legislation. We will find other offsets if we have need to," she said, "[but] at this moment we believe we will get tobacco legislation."

Even if a tobacco settlement materializes, Jeffords believes that money should go toward tobacco-related problems, not child care. "Those of us who recall the 'peace dividend' of a few years ago should be cautious about how we spend tomorrow's 'tobacco dividend,' however worthy the cause," he said.

Meanwhile, Republican Rep. Bill Goodling, chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, has questioned the need for Clinton's massive child care plan. "The federal government already sponsors more than 50 child care programs. The president is trying to tell us we need even more while ignoring the tremendous child care reforms implemented by Congress," Goodling said.

Despite their concerns, both lawmakers signaled their willingness to work with Clinton on improving the nation's child care system. "There is broad bipartisan interest in participating in this dialogue," Jeffords said. "I am glad that the president has decided to pull his chair up to the table and join this important effort."

March 13, 1998

THE CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT CENTER

DATE:	**Monday, March 16**
TIME:	**11:40 am - 1:00pm**
LOCATION:	**The Children's Assessment Center Houston, TX**
FROM:	**Brenda Costello**

I. PURPOSE

To participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for The Children's Assessment Center, and to highlight the Administration's commitment to ending violence against women by announcing a recent Justice Department report on domestic violence, or violence by intimates, which shows a 25 percent decline in cases of violence against women.

II. BACKGROUND

On Monday morning you will tour and deliver remarks with Congressman Ken Bentsen, Jr. at the ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating the grand opening of The Children's Assessment Center's new facility.

Designed to protect and heal sexually abused children by providing a more compassionate approach to assisting young victims, The Children's Assessment Center (CAC) provides child victims of sexual abuse with on-site medical and clinical assessment and social services all in one child-friendly location. Using the multi-disciplinary, multi-agency team approach in prevention, assessment, investigation, referral for prosecution and treatment, the center houses all partner agencies under one roof.

The center seeks to eliminate the further victimization of children which the discovery of abuse and subsequent interviews, exams, referrals and investigation and prosecution often bring. Children are videotaped by specially trained interviewers, allowing Center staff, law enforcement, social workers etc, to obtain necessary information without subjecting children to repeated questioning.

Established in 1991 as a program of Harris County Child Protective Services, The Children's Assessment Center Foundation established its public-private partnership in 1995 as a department of the Harris County Commissioners' Court. The center is now a collaborative effort between ten partnering agencies, including Harris County Child Protective Services, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Hermann Hospital, Interfaith Ministries/Youth Victims, among others. Previously located in the HCCCP building, CAC moved into their new facility last Monday, March 9.

The Center is the largest of its kind in the country, serving over 5,000 victims and their siblings in 1997 alone. Since its inception in 1991, it has served more than 20,000 children, and grown from one to 23 employees and over 100 on-site personnel from partner agencies. The initial $50,000 allocation from both public and private sectors has grown to an operating budget exceeding $1.8 million, with over $3 million in in-kind contributions. CAC also provides facilities where community volunteers can offer immediate resources to children and families such as food, clothing, and other necessary items.

The Center is located in an area of Houston called "the Village", near Rice University, and serves an ethnically and economically diverse group of clients. Approximately one-third of the victims served are Hispanic, 39 percent Caucasian and 23 percent African American. Two-thirds of the victims are female, one-third male, and range in age from infants to 18 years and older, though the majority are under 18 years of age.

<u>Funding</u>
The Center is funded through a public-private partnership between Harris County Commissioners' Court and the Children's Assessment Center Foundation. The Center receives one-half of its annual program operating budget from Harris County, and the remainder is raised privately by the CAC Foundation from corporations, foundations and individuals. Harris County donated the property while the Center was built.

Federal funding for operating expenses (approximately 10 percent) is provided through Harris County from the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA), IVB foster care reimbursement funds (HHS), and the National Network of Child Advocacy fund, a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention program at the Department of Justice. Additionally, approximately 11 percent of facility construction was paid for through Community Development Block Grants.

Victims/clients are never turned away from the center, with Medicaid, private insurance, or the state's crime victims compensation fund paying for services. The building is named for John O'Quinn who donated $1.5 to the new facility.

In Texas, approximately 15,000 children were served by advocacy centers in 1997 alone, while The CAC served 5,000 children in 1997, which includes sexually abused children and their siblings who also received services at The Center. In Houston and surrounding counties, over 1,700 cases of sexual abuse were reported in 1996, the most recent year for which statistics were available.

New Report on the Decline of Domestic Violence During the Clinton Administration: The number of female victims of non-lethal intimate violence has declined from 1.1 million in 1993 to 840,000 in 1996 - a 23% decline, according to a new report by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics.

This report, titled *Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends*, examines the characteristics and contexts of violence between intimates based on information gathered from victims through the National Crime Victimization Survey, from law enforcement agencies, hospital emergency departments, and those convicted of crimes against intimates. Because of the combination of data sources, this report is considered an extremely accurate reflection of the problem of domestic abuse. Other ***key findings*** are that the number of victims of lethal intimate violence has declined from 3,000 in 1976, to 1,800 in 1976. However, the report also notes some evidence of a slight increase in the rate of white females killed by a boyfriend. In terms of the cycle of violence, the report tells us that slightly more than half of female victims of intimate violence live in households with children under the age of twelve, and about 40% of imprisoned intimate offenders report that one or more children under age 18 resided with them at some time before the offenders entered prison.

This Administration has done more to raise awareness of the problem of domestic violence than any other, and has made important investments in tackling this problem. The Violence Against Women Act, which was part of the President's 1994 Crime Act, increased funding for prosecution of domestic violence, treatment and domestic violence prevention. Indeed, we have tripled funding for battered women's shelters. Domestic violence is still a tremendous problem with 840,000 incidents in 1996. However, this report supports the investments we have made and indicates that our efforts in this area -- particularly in the President's use of the bully pulpit -- have helped make a real dent in the problem.

Format

Upon arrival at the Children's Assessment Center you will have a brief meet and greet with elected officials, board members, major donors, and the girl who painted mural for the backdrop. You will tour the Center with Ellen Cokinos, Executive Director of the Center and Susan French, CAC Foundation President.

On the third floor you will be joined by Cong. Bentsen and his wife Tamra Bentsen, and John and Julie O'Quinn. You will see the Interview Room, the Playroom and the Therapy Room. On the first floor, you will visit the medical services area where several doctors will explain the various services provided.

Note: There will be no children in the building at any time during your visit for confidentiality reasons.

Following the tour there will be a speaking program outside in front of the building.

Announced onto stage with other stage participants by Chris Pappas, CEO, Pappas restaurants and a major donor to the center. **Note:** At the end of your remarks, you will invite John O'Quinn onto stage to cut the ribbon. Approximately 300 staff and major supporters will be in the audience.

III. PARTICIPANTS

-The First Lady
-Susan French, CAC Foundation President
-Ellen Cokinos, Executive Director, Children's Assessment Center
-Cong. Ken Bentsen

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

-See final schedule

V. PRESS

TBD

VI. REMARKS

Talking points provided by Christy Macy.

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COMMITTEES
BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL
MONETARY POLICY

BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4325

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August 25, 1997

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady of the United States
Second Floor, West Wing
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I am writing to invite you to attend the grand opening in February 1998 of The Children's Assessment Center's new facility. This pioneering project is now being constructed in Houston in response to the community's demand for improving the manner in which the needs of sexually abused children are addressed. Given your tireless advocacy for children, the Center's supporters and the entire Houston community would be greatly honored to have you join us for this special event. The Center is flexible on the exact date for the grand opening and stands ready to accommodate your schedule in every way. complete 3/98

The Children's Assessment Center was established in 1991 to protect children by providing co-housing, coordination, agency collaboration, and the use of the multi-disciplinary team approach in the prevention, assessment, investigation, referral for prosecution and treatment of child sexual abuse. To fulfill this mission, The Center provides the following direct services to child victims of sexual abuse: 1) a videotaped forensic interview of a child's statement that eliminates the need for multiple interviews by the various entities involved in a child sexual abuse case; 2) a sexual assault examination utilizing videocolposcopy; 3) therapeutic services to help child sexual abuse victims heal; 4) expert testimony in civil and criminal court cases; and 5) advocacy for children as they make their way through the system. The Center is the largest of its kind in the nation and serves over 5,000 children annually.

The Center's direct services are enhanced by the expertise provided by over 100 representatives of ten government and private sector agencies who are committed to reducing the trauma children undergo during the difficult period of assessment, investigation, and treatment of child sexual abuse. Participants include law enforcement entities, child advocacy programs, several academic institutions, and other service providers. This team approach to serving sexually abused children speeds recovery and improves the effectiveness of law enforcement in such cases. The agency truly stands as a national model worthy of your attention.

From its inception in 1991 as a program of Harris County Children's Protective Services, The Children's Assessment Center has grown exponentially and now stands as its own department of Harris County Commissioners' Court. In a unique approach to meeting the specialized needs of child victims of sexual abuse, The Center established a public-private partnership, wherein 50 percent of its operating budget is provided by county government and the remainder is raised from private sources. The Center is currently housed on the second floor of the Children's Protective Services building, where it has quickly outgrown its allocated space. In 1994, Harris County Commissioners' Court approved the construction of the 53,000-square-foot facility that will house expanded staff, state-of-the-art interview and therapy rooms, and a complete medical clinic.

In their efforts to fund the $10.25 million capital campaign for the construction of the building, The Center has received an overwhelming amount of support from the private sector, which has provided over 79% of the money raised to date. The remaining 11% has been funded through Community Development Block Grants. The Center is nearing completion of this campaign and expects to occupy the building in mid-January.

I am enclosing additional information about The Children's Assessment Center and its new building. I cannot overstate how much it would mean to me and the Center's supporters to have you attend this grand opening. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my district director, Ms. Pat Strong, at 713-667-3554 if you have any questions or need more information. We stand ready to work with you in every way to make this visit possible. Thank you for your kind consideration of this request and for your work on behalf of our children.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Bentsen, Jr.
Member of Congress

KEB:vw

** Houston Chronicle Friday, Nov. 28, 1997

Houstonians to help start center for Iceland's sexually abused kids

By JO ANN ZUÑIGA
Houston Chronicle

Three Houston-area social workers will head for Iceland today to help set up a center for sexually abused children.

Ellen Cokinos, director of the Children's Assessment Center, and two staffers will spend a week meeting with law enforcement officers, social workers and agency heads on how to ease the trauma and legal process for minors.

"It's a beautiful country, but it's dark a lot of the time and there is a high rate of alcoholism, although the population is well-educated," Cokinos said.

Iceland's honorary consul in Houston, Olaf Asgeirsson, said his country ~~anized its version of a Children's ~~ective Service two years ago.

~~ith a population of only 250,000 – ~~ than 100,000 of them in the capital ~~eykjavik – the problem had not ~~en seen as pressing before.

"We had 100 cases (of child sexual abuse) last year," Asgeirsson said. "But as we go through changes in society, today people are more open and outspoken about problems that before were hidden."

> 'We had 100 cases (of child sexual abuse) last year. But as we go through changes in society, today people are more open and outspoken about problems that before were hidden.'
>
> **Olaf Asgeirsson, Iceland's honorary consul in Houston**

By comparison, Harris County will handle about 5,000 cases in 1997.

In Iceland, the average prison sentence is two to three years for sex offenders, and no treatment programs are available.

Bragi Gudbrandsson, Iceland's director of its Children Protective Service agency, came here in September after the Children's Assessment Center in Houston was referred as a top national role model. Impressed by the local center's child-friendly atmosphere, on-site medical and counseling assessment and the coordination between agencies, Gudbrandsson invited the local staff to come to Iceland as consultants.

"The agency has purchased a fairly large house that was remodeled to be used as Iceland's center," Asgeirsson said.

Some procedures also needed to be redone, such as allowing its judges to interview the children in the cases.

"It seems very intimidating to have someone with that much authority do the interviewing," said Dana Zakin, a specialized interviewer with the Children's Assessment Center who is also traveling to Iceland.

"We videotape the children when we first interview them so they don't have to recall the abuse over and over again," Zakin said.

"The district attorney can use the tape when putting together their case," she said.

Zakin will discuss that procedure while staffer Maureen O'Connell, the center's clinical services coordinator, will explain how therapy and medical services are organized.

The Children's Assessment Center is going through its own evolution, moving from its current offices at CPS headquarters, 5100 Southwest Freeway, to a new $10 million building at 2501 Dunstan, scheduled to be completed in February.

Harris County, the city of Houston and the U.S. Housing and Urban Development provided $2.1 million toward construction. The rest came from foundations, corporations and individuals. The building will be named after John M. O'Quinn, who gave $1.5 million to the project.

The three-story, 53,000-square-foot building will house interview areas, outdoor and indoor play areas, medical services, shower facilities and a kitchen donated by Pappas restaurants, said center spokeswoman Terri Garner-Stuart.

"It's really a model of collaborative effort," she said. "Many of our cases are from middle-class backgrounds with abuse happening in all types of families. The average victim is a 9-year-old Anglo girl."

PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS
THE ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT OF 1997
November 19, 1997

Today, President Clinton signs into law the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, to help thousands of children waiting in foster care move more quickly into safe and permanent homes. This overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation was based in large part on the recommendations of the Administration's "Adoption 2002" report. The report takes its name from one of the President's central goals which is, at a minimum, to double the number of adoptions to 54,000 by the year 2002.

The Act makes sweeping changes in federal law on adoption and foster care enacted in 1980. The new law makes clear that the health and safety of children must be the paramount concerns of state child welfare services. It sets swifter time frames for making permanent placement decisions and terminating parental rights for children. For the first time, states will have financial incentives to increase adoptions. Children with special needs and ongoing medical needs are ensured health care coverage. Federal funds will continue for programs that work to keep families together when it is appropriate and safe to do so.

Ensuring that Children are Safe

Clarifies Reasonable Efforts: As the President proposed, the new law ensures that children' s health and safety are the primary concerns of the public child welfare system. It clarifies that there are instances when states are not required to make "reasonable efforts" to keep children with their parents, such as when a parent has been convicted of murdering another child or a child has been abandoned, tortured, or chronically abused.

Doubling the Number of Children Adopted or Permanently Placed by 2002

Creates Financial Incentives: The new law contains the President's plan to offer a financial bonus to states that increase the number of children who are adopted from the public foster care system. These incentives will help to double the number of children adopted. For every additional child adopted, a state will receive $4,000, with an additional $2,000 paid for each child with special needs. The Act authorizes $20 million for each of 5 years (FY 1999 to FY 2003) for the bonuses, though eventually the bonuses will be offset by savings in foster care expenses.

Establishes Tighter Time Limits: Children who cannot safely return to their own families often wait far too long in foster care – typically over 3 years, and many times even longer. Under the new law, permanency hearings will now be held no later than 12 months after a child enters foster care, 6 months earlier than under previous law, and states must initiate termination of parental rights proceedings, except in specified circumstances, for any child who has been in foster care for 15 of the previous 22 months.

Breaking Down Barriers, Promoting Safe and Stable Families, and Achieving Accountability

Eliminating Obstacles: The new law prohibits delaying or denying adoptions across state or county lines, thereby breaking geographic barriers to adoption.

Providing Supportive Services: The new law ensures that children with special needs keep health insurance coverage when they are adopted, either through Medicaid or through the new children's health program. In addition, the new law reauthorizes the Family Preservation and Family Support Services Program, renamed Promoting Safe and Stable Families, which provides services to strengthen families before crises occur and to ensure safe, stable homes for children who return to their families.

Emphasizing Results for Children: The new law authorizes HHS, in consultation with states, to develop new measures to track and rate state performance efforts in providing child welfare services to ensure successful results for children.

Recognizing Success: Prior to the bill signing today, HHS recognized 13 awardees for significant achievement in helping both adopted children and those waiting for adoption. Among the awardees are families, foundations, members of the media, and states that have improved the management of child welfare programs.

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION RECORD ON ADOPTION

November 19, 1997

"I am pleased that the Senate and the House of Representatives have passed historic, bipartisan legislation to promote adoption and improve our nation's child welfare system, giving our nation's most vulnerable children what every child deserves --a safe and permanent home." --Statement by President Clinton, November 13, 1997

The Clinton Administration has previously taken several important steps to encourage and increase adoptions and to support the families who choose to open their hearts and their homes to these children. Since taking office in 1993, the President has championed programs that find and assist adoptive families, and has committed his Administration to breaking down barriers, including high adoption costs and complex regulations. These steps include:

MAKING ADOPTION AFFORDABLE FOR FAMILIES. Last year, President Clinton signed into law the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, which provides a $5,000 tax credit to families adopting children, and a $6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. This provision has alleviated a significant barrier to adoption, helping middle class families for whom adoption may have been prohibitively expensive and making it easier for families to adopt children with special needs. Since President Clinton took office, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted with federal adoption assistance has risen by 60 percent. This year, in signing the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, President Clinton ensured more support for families who adopt children with the $500 Per-Child Tax Credit.

GIVING STATES FLEXIBILITY AND SUPPORT. To test innovative strategies to improve child welfare systems, the Clinton Administration has granted child welfare waivers to California, Delaware, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio and Oregon, giving the states more flexibility in tailoring services to meet the needs of children and families. Up to two more states will receive approval for waivers under previous authority. Under the new Adoption and Safe Families Act, HHS will grant up to 10 waivers per year to states. In addition, this Administration has provided states with enhanced technical support and helped improve court operations. In September, HHS awarded 40 demonstration grants totalling $7.9 million, to states, local agencies, courts, private organizations, and others committed to promoting adoption for innovative programs to increase adoptions and reduce the number of children in foster care. To prevent children from entering foster care in the first place, in 1993, the Clinton Administration secured federal funding for the Family Preservation and Family Support Program to help states, local governments and service providers develop effective programs to serve children and families at risk.

BREAKING DOWN RACIAL AND ETHNIC BARRIERS TO ADOPTION. The Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, also ensures that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity by strengthening the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act which the President signed in 1994.

PROVIDING SUPPORTS FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND ADOPTION. In 1993, President Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act which enables parents to take time off to adopt a child without losing their jobs or health insurance. In addition, the welfare reform bill that the President signed into law maintains the guarantee of child protection and adoption, and does not reduce funds for child welfare, child abuse, foster care and adoption services.

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS. Through speeches, writings, events and public service announcements, the President and First Lady have promoted the importance and benefits of adoption.

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

REMARKS FOR CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT CENTER

HOUSTON, TEXAS

MARCH 16, 1998

It's a pleasure to be here for the opening of this new Children's Assessment Center, and to join Congressman Ken Bentsen, his wife Tamra; Ellen Cokinos [pronounced CO-KIN-OSE], executive Director of the Children's Assessment Center; Susan French, president of the Center; Mayor Lee Brown; Judge Robert Eckles; and all of you -- who have worked so tirelessly on behalf of abused children and their families.

I want to thank Congressman Bentsen in particular for inviting me here, and for his long- standing commitment on behalf of children -- particularly in ensuring they receive better health care and greater educational opportunities. I know he's recently been leading Congressional efforts to make it easier for children who are eligible for Medicaid coverage to sign up. A report released by HHS last week says up to 4 million children in America are eligible for that coverage -- but not enrolled. So there's an urgent need to act -- and I want to commend Congressman Bentsen for his work in this critical area.

We are all here today because we share a belief that every child has great promise, and that we all have a stake in helping children reach their fullest God-given potential. They are the world's most precious resources, and our future leaders. Yet every year, thousands of children suffer the physical and psychological scars of abuse and neglect. It's happening in this country. It's happening in Texas. And it may be happening next door to where we live.

And the problem is getting worse. There's been a dramatic 125% increase in sexual abuse reports between 1986 and 1993. Here in Texas, 15,000 children are served by advocacy centers across the state. And as you know so well -- sexual abuse cuts across all racial and economic lines. It's a reality that no one likes to face. But one that clearly all of you are determined to do something about.

The terrible physical and emotional pain that children endure as victims of sexual abuse is damaging enough. But this Center, and all of you, have recognized that the complicated, often unwieldy process of assessment, investigation and treatment adds another layer of anguish to an already difficult journey. Too often, this maze of uncoordinated programs and services only serves to perpetuate the victimization of these children. The Children's Assessment Center has been at the forefront of making this journey not only more efficient, but more "child friendly."

This Center's success over the years has been the result of its unique focus on collaboration; coordination; and team work. Whether it's videotaping the original interview with the child (to eliminate painful repetitions of those sessions); providing therapeutic services; giving expert testimony; or guiding children through the legal system, the Center provides victims and their families the comprehensive help and services they need.

With the opening of this Center, all of those services -- that's eleven agencies -- will for the first time be housed under one roof. That's what I call putting children and families first.

I applaud the Center as a model public/private partnership. Appreciation to the many partners involved in this effort -- from public agencies like the Attorney's Office, Harris County Children's Protective Services, and the Police Department, to advocacy organizations like CASA; to area hospitals, members of the religious community, and universities. From every segment of this community, you have come together to unite around the common goal of protecting our children. Over the years, you've helped stop the violence, heal the wounds, and secure the rights of thousands of children. Today, your work on behalf of abused children and their families takes another major step forward.

I want to say a special word of appreciation to two extraordinary women -- whose determination and vision have helped make this new Center a reality. Ellen Cokinos, executive director, and Susan French, president, have been the guiding lights and inspiration for creating the Child Assessment Center and its unique collaborative approach. Under their leadership, the Center has grown dramatically -- in recognition, in size, in effectiveness and in community support. Today is a tribute to their vision and perseverance.

Thanks to them -- and all of you -- this Center has become the largest of its kind in the nation -- becoming not only a national but an international model for child abuse advocacy and treatment. I understand that Ellen and two of her staff have recently visited Iceland -- to help improve the way that country delivers services to sexually abused children. I hope that this strategy of providing comprehensive, coordinated on-site services for children and families will continue to be duplicated -- in communities across our nation and around the world.

We know that when we work together to raise public awareness, and invest in programs that work -- as you have done here in Houston -- that we can make a very real difference in the lives of America's children and families.

That lesson is confirmed today, with the release of a Justice Department report that shows that during the Clinton Administration -- between 1993 and 1996 -- the incidents of domestic violence against women has dropped by roughly 25%. I'm proud that this Administration and this President have worked so hard on this issue -- raising awareness and investing funds in the prosecution, treatment, and prevention of domestic violence. While abuse against women remains far too high -- 840,000 incidents a year -- we should recognize that we are making progress, thanks to national leadership on this issue, and thanks to people like yourselves who are developing programs that truly meet the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

We're also making strides in our efforts to protect and better serve children who through no fault of their own find themselves in foster care. As many of you know, we passed an historic law last year -- the Adoption and Safe Families Act -- which will help thousands of children waiting for foster care to move more quickly into safe and permanent homes. The Act makes sweeping changes in federal law that makes clear that the health and safety of children -- many of whom are victims of abuse -- must be the single greatest concern of state child welfare agencies. So I urge you to help us implement these new, stronger laws in every community.

The Center that we open here today is a place of refuge and comfort for victims of abuse and violence; a rescue site for the powerless; and perhaps the last source of hope for children and families who have almost given up. Thank you on behalf of the children of Texas, for the invaluable work you have done, and the example you have set -- to improve the lives of these youngest and most vulnerable citizens. And thank you for what you will accomplish in the months and years ahead, not only to help end the violence against children, but to ensure they are given the healthy, safe and loving start in life that every child in America needs and deserves.

And now, I'd like to invite everyone here on stage to join me in cutting the ribbon and opening the doors to this wonderful Center.

The Houston Chronicle

View Related Topics

March 17, 1998, Tuesday 3 STAR EDITION

SECTION: A; Pg. 13 MetFront

LENGTH: 611 words

HEADLINE: First lady hails center for children

SOURCE: Staff

BYLINE: RAD SALLEE

BODY:
In the first of two Houston appearances Monday, first lady **Hillary** Rodham **Clinton** cut the ribbon on a new center designed to ease the ordeal of sexually abused children.

Afterward, she spoke at a luncheon for Democratic women at the Westin Galleria Hotel.

Clinton did not mention the current sexual allegations against her husband at either event, nor did she respond to questions on the subject.

Her first stop was a dedication ceremony for the John M. O'Quinn Building of the **Children's Assessment Center,** at 2500 Bolsover in The Village near Rice University.

The new, cheerful-looking three-story building will house 10 public and private agencies so that abused children may be treated, counseled and questioned by law enforcement personnel with a minimum of emotional stress and repetition.

Clinton spoke to about 300 persons who took shelter from the stormy weather under a tent.

"I've looked into the faces of many children who have been abused by those in whom they placed their trust and love," she said.

"There's no worse feeling in any human being's heart than to feel abandoned, neglected, unloved and unwanted."

But the legal process that some young victims must endure as cases of abuse are investigated and prosecuted often "adds another layer of anguish" that "further victimizes" them, Clinton said.

The new center - the largest of its kind in the nation - will "make this journey less painful," she said.

"I will take this message and spread it as widely as I can," Clinton promised.

"You will get many visitors," she predicted. "You should be so grateful to have a place like this in your community."

The building, erected on Harris County property, cost $ 10.25 million. John O'Quinn, an attorney, donated $ 1.5 million, the largest private gift.

The county and the city of Houston contributed community development block grants of $ 1.2 million and $ 800,000, respectively.

In addition, there were donations of $ 500,000 each from the Brown Foundation, the Cullen Trust for Healthcare, the Fondren Foundation, Houston Endowment Inc., the Kresge Foundation and the Vivian L. Smith Foundation, as well as a number of smaller gifts.

The center is a program of Harris County, responsible to Commissioners Court, but operates on a mix of public and private funds. It has existed since 1991, but never until now under one roof.

The current operating budget for the center is $ 1.9 million. About half comes from taxes and the rest is raised by the center's support foundation, said assistant director Roz Hill.

The agencies working there provide another $ 3.3 million worth of in-kind services, she said. They include the Houston Police Department, the Sheriff's Department, the county and district attorneys' offices, Children's Protective Services, Child Advocates, Interfaith Ministries, the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, the University of Texas Health Science Center and the Memorial/Hermann Health Care System.

O'Quinn's wife, Julie, accepted thanks on his behalf. Her husband, who is involved in the state's litigation against tobacco companies, could not attend, she said.

Center director Ellen Cokinos, who had pushed for such a facility for years, introduced Clinton. Cokinos' voice broke as she thanked donors and officials for making it a reality.

"For those who think dreams don't come true, I say, 'Look behind me!' " Cokinos said.

After the ceremony, Clinton went to the Westin Galleria Hotel for a luncheon of the Democratic National Committee Women's Leadership Forum, where she recounted the Clinton administration's goals and achievements and asked for the group's support.

GRAPHIC: Photos: 1. First Lady **Hillary** Rodham **Clinton** tours the **Children's Assessment Center** playroom that is in the John O'Quinn building (b/w); 2. First lady **Hillary** Rodham **Clinton** sits Monday with Ellen Cokinos and Julie O'Quinn during the dedication of the **Children's Assessment Center** at 2500 Bolsover (color, p. 1); John Everett / Chronicle

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 18, 1998

Austin American-Statesman

View Related Topics

March 17, 1998

SECTION: Metro/State; Pg. B3

LENGTH: 394 words

HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton attends opening of sex abuse center; Ignoring

BYLINE: Terri Langford

BODY:

HOUSTON -- First lady **Hillary** Rodham **Clinton** on Monday opened a $10 million center for child sexual abuse victims, praised local advocates for their efforts and ignored questions about her husband's alleged sexual advances on a former White House volunteer.

Clinton smiled, shook hands with supporters and ignored questions from the media about the latest allegations, aired Sunday night on CBS' 60 Minutes." Former White House volunteer Kathleen Willey said on the program that in 1993 Clinton embraced her, touched her breasts and placed her hand on his genitals.

I'm often asked how can I stand being involved in politics," she told supporters at a luncheon in her honor, sparking laughter from the crowd. Depending upon the day, I have a different answer."

During Monday's visit to Houston, her focus stayed squarely on the issue of abused children.

There's no worse feeling in any human being's heart than to feel abandoned, neglected, unloved and unwanted," she told about 350 people who gathered at the opening of Houston's new **Children's Assessment Center.** And for every child who feels that, for whatever reason, it is in our interest to reach out and touch that child."

Clinton fielded no questions from reporters as she toured the center, a public-private partnership that allows children who have been abused to be interviewed, examined, counseled and even to play in one location.

The three-story, 53,000-square- foot facility is the largest of its kind in the nation and is expected to see about 5,000 kids a year. It knits together the work of 10 different governmental agencies involved in prosecuting child abusers and protecting the welfare of children.

The center is financed through Harris County and many foundations -- including a $1.5 million donation from local attorney John O'Quinn, who was absent from the ceremony because of his involvement in tobacco litigation. In his place was his wife, Julie O'Quinn.

Clinton, who as an attorney worked to help terminate parental rights of child abusers, called child sexual abuse the most horrible of crimes" and praised Houston and Harris County for forging a unique partnership with private foundations to make the assessment center possible.

I'm so glad to be able to see this," she told volunteers during her tour. It's such a cheerful, wonderful place."

GRAPHIC: Hillary Rodham **Clinton,** center, helps with the ribbon cutting Monday at the opening of

Houston's new **Children's Assessment Center.** Ellen Cokinos, left, executive director of the center, looks on.

LOAD-DATE: March 24, 1998

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Example: **House of Representatives**

The Houston Chronicle

View Related Topics

March 16, 1998, Monday 2 STAR EDITION

SECTION: HOUSTON; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 1133 words

HEADLINE: ROOM TO GLOW;
Abused kids' well-being at heart of **Children's Assessment Center's** new home

SOURCE: Staff

BYLINE: LESLIE SOWERS

BODY:
The vivid green branches of a sculpted tree arch over the reception area, welcoming visitors to the new building for the **Children's Assessment Center.** An atrium playground needs a sign: "Caution - Romping Zone." And in the waiting area, an appealing array of toys invites children into the happy realm of play.

The bricks-and-mortar message of the new, $ 10 million building comes through in crayon colors: Sexually abused children matter.

Reinforcing that message is the scheduled appearance today of first lady **Hillary** Rodham **Clinton,** who will mark the official opening of the John M. O'Quinn Building at a noon ribbon cutting and ceremony for several hundred invited guests.

Unofficially, the 53,000-square-foot building opened its doors last week to the first of a sadly large number of clients. Telling the tale of sexual abuse, sometimes in little more than a whisper, takes its toll on young victims. Here, at least, they tell it only once.

And they tell it in a setting that has been designed to minimize the pain of disclosure, to foster their sense of safety and to immerse them in a healing environment from the moment they walk through the doors.

"Every little thing was designed with children in mind. They participated in the design. We really got a chance to think it through," said Ellen Cokinos, director of the CAC. The program and its building have been realized in large part through her leadership over more than a decade.

The CAC is a unique public-private partnership, and the collaboration of the multiple agencies involved has become a national and international model for such services. In its new building, it is the largest such center in the country.

Harris County Judge Robert Eckels attributes the accomplishment to the persistence of Cokinos, community volunteer Susan French and the center board.

"They have been tenacious in keeping the political and business leaders informed of their mission and vision," Eckels said. "They managed to get us to buy into it and to get us to help them expand it."

The new building represents the efforts of a broad spectrum of community leaders, he said, adding that it is hard to say no to the population the CAC serves.

"It has been a critical need for a long time," Eckels said.

Cokinos has worked with sexually abused children since 1985, when she began as a caseworker with Harris County Children's Protective Services. She has seen the number of cases reported grow exponentially. Only 40 cases were handled by CPS in 1980, while more than 5,000 were seen at the CAC last year.

As the field of knowledge about sexual abuse grew, child advocates began to realize that the very system that was supposed to help children added to their trauma by requiring that they tell their stories repeatedly to different agencies involved and to testify in court. Around the country, concerned professionals recognized that the system needed to change.

In 1990, Cokinos teamed with French, a former president of the Junior League, to obtain a grant to form the CAC, which would create a child-focused way to coordinate services and procedures. Negotiating cooperation across agencies and jurisdictions wasn't an easy process, Cokinos said.

"Once we were able to explain why there was a need for collaboration and the needs of these children, it all came together," French said.

Initially located within the CPS building and operating under its umbrella, the center streamlined procedures. Children were interviewed once by a trained professional who then shared information with participating agencies. In many cases, videotaped interviews convinced abusers to admit their wrongdoing, avoiding the necessity of a court case. Closely coordinated work among the agencies helps prevent abused children and their offenders from slipping through the cracks.

As the CAC demonstrated its success, it continued to grow. By 1994, the center had forged a partnership with seven public and private agencies with combined resources of more than 100 professionals, a support staff and 60 volunteers. Participating in the CAC team response are representatives from Child Advocates Inc.; Harris County Children's Protective Services; the Harris County Attorney's Office; Harris County District Attorney's Office; Harris County Sheriff's Office; Memorial Hermann Healthcare Systems; Houston Police Department; Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services; Interfaith Ministries/Youth Victim/Witness; and the University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston.

Cokinos said that once the agencies involved finally believed in the concept, the alliance began to work. As a result, the agencies were able to clear cases faster, serve more children and, by sharing offices, save space as well. In addition to the on-site interview, medical exam and therapeutic services, the center added innovative extras such as art therapy and volunteers who helped meet unrelated needs such as obtaining clothing or dental care.

When children disclose sexual abuse, they are brought to the center by CPS workers or the police. There they are interviewed and given a physical examination. If sexual abuse is confirmed, CPS determines if their home setting is safe. If it is not, they are taken into protective custody.

Plans for the new building were authorized in 1994 by Harris County Commissioners Court, which donated the land on which the building now sits. Cokinos, French and the center's board embarked on a $ 10 million fund-raising campaign that has cut across many sectors of the community.

The center had become a collaborative effort between the county and the community, each contributing funds and expertise to help these children. Though it became a separate county department in 1995, the center receives about half its funding from the county and half through private fund raising.

Cokinos credits community philanthropies for being willing to go beyond assisting the more traditional arts or medical recipients to fund a cause that only a decade ago couldn't be talked about.

She is thrilled that passion and vision for the center has spread to the wider community and believes it will be a lasting gift to children in the area.

Cokinos is as enthusiastic about the smaller gifts as the larger contributions. Whether it's a $ 30,000 piece of medical equipment or the painting of atrium murals by 17 Kinkaid High School students doing a service project, the gifts mean the community has embraced the children who have suffered this particularly painful abuse, she said.

Maureen O'Connell, who directs the center's therapeutic services, said one of the first young visitors came into the building with wide, appreciative eyes.

"This building is for you," she told the child. "This building was built for you."

GRAPHIC: Photos: 1. Mary Benavides, a volunteer at the **Children's Assessment Center,** picks up toys in the children's waiting room at the **Children's Assessment Center** (color); 2. Ellen Cokinos, executive director of the center, Harris County Judge Robert Eckels and Susan French look over the new playground equipment;; Karen Warren photos/ Chronicle

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: June 10, 1998

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SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1998
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_PREV RON The White House

12:00pm-
1:00pm

LUNCH w/Patti Solis Doyle
Residence
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PARTICIPANTS:
The First Lady
Patti Solis Doyle
Lee Doyle

1:00pm-
1:45pm

ATTENBOROUGH TAPING
Diplomatic Reception Room
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2:00pm-
3:00pm

VIDEOS
Room 459, OEOB
CLOSED PRESS/NO WH PHOTO

-Girls Incorporated National Conference
-Women's Leadership Forum
-Helen Thomas Tribute Video for The White House Correspondent's Dinner
-HIPPY, 10th Anniversary Celebration
-Association of Youth Museum's 1998 "Great Friend To Kids" Award to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
-USIA Copenhagen Symposium on "Women and Information Technology in the Baltic Sea Region"
-American Foundation for Suicide Prevention 1998 Humanitarian Award to Rosalynn Carter
-Children's Defense Fund, 6th Annual "Beat the Odds" Banquet (Minnesota)

3:30pm- 4:00pm	**GOING-AWAY PARTY** for Debbie Schiff President's Patio **CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO**

FORMAT:

- Nancy Hernreich gives remarks and introduces the Vice President.
- The Vice President makes remarks and introduces the First Lady.
- The First Lady makes remarks and introduces the President.
- The President makes remarks.
- The President and the First Lady have the option to mingle with guests or depart.

PARTICIPANTS: 130 guests

4:30pm- 4:50pm	**MEETING [w/POTUS]** Oval Office **CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO**

PARTICIPANTS:
The President
The First Lady
Stephanie Street
Melanne Verveer
Evan Ryan
Aviva Steinberg

4:50pm- 7:20pm	**DOWN TIME**
7:25pm	**DEPART** South Portico **VIA** Motorcade **EN ROUTE** National Gallery of Art [Drive time: 5 minutes]
7:30pm	**ARRIVE** National Gallery of Art

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1998

GREETERS:
Earl A. Powell, Director, National Gallery
Genevera Higginson, Assistant to the Director, National Gallery of Art
Members of the Board of Directors (12)

7:40pm **PROCEED** to the Rotunda

7:55pm-9:20pm **ANDREW MELLON DINNER [w/POTUS]**
National Gallery, West Building
Attire: Black tie
POOL PRESS (REMARKS ONLY)/WH PHOTO

FORMAT:

- Dinner is served.

- Upon conclusion of dinner, Alexander Mellon Laughlin, Chairman, Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, makes remarks and introduces the President.

- The President makes brief remarks.

- Robert Smith, President, National Gallery of Art, makes remarks.

- Earl A. Powell III, Director, National Gallery of Art, makes brief remarks.

- The President and the First Lady, escorted by Earl A. Powell III, depart.

9:25pm **DEPART** National Gallery of Art
VIA Motorcade
EN ROUTE South Portico
[Drive time: 5 minutes]

9:30pm **ARRIVE** South Portico

RON The White House

4/8/98

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND OF MINNESOTA
VIDEO FOR 1998 BEAT THE ODDS AWARDS

Good evening. I am honored to once again be part of the Minnesota Beat the Odds Banquet. I want to thank all of you here tonight for helping the Children's Defense Fund of Minnesota provide a powerful voice for children and families throughout the state.

Marian Wright Edelman once said, "Too seldom do we hear of the many young people who are making it despite tremendous obstacles." Tonight, I am proud to honor five young people who are doing just that. All of tonight's honorees remind us that with a little opportunity and a lot of courage and commitment, young people can accomplish extraordinary things.

Rachel, you are showing other children who are be dealing with AIDS and other family problems they are not alone. You are sharing not only your story, but also your compassion -- and I thank you.

Teol (TEE-uhl), you said you want to be everything from an actress to a psychologist. If anyone can pull it off, you can. By pursuing your dreams -- and encouraging others to do the same -- you have been a true role model.

Zachary, your resilience and your dream of becoming the first Scofield to go to college has inspired us all. You are showing that with love and motivation, the human spirit can triumph.

Carlos, you have taught us what it means to triumph over hardship. And now you want to pass these lessons on by teaching tomorrow's young people that they too can go as far as their dreams and abilities will take them.

Song, you came to the United States alone, but brought with you wisdom far beyond your years. By taking responsibility for your future, you are ensuring that it, like you, will always be filled with promise.

All of you are heroes. The President and I want to congratulate you and thank you for the hope and encouragement you are providing to young people across our country. I hope you have a wonderful evening.

###

TALKING IT OVER

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

April 22, 1998

The need for child care has become a fact of American life. But not all parents are able to afford or find the child care they need. Gilbert Ayala of San Jose, Calif., is a perfect example. When his wife was hospitalized, Gilbert was forced to stay home to care for their 3-year-old son. He was on three waiting lists for child care help so that he could return to work and support his family, but before assistance came, Gilbert lost his job and their apartment. He and his son for a time lived out of their car before finding a room to rent.

Legislation before Congress is designed to help families like Gilbert's. Congress has fewer than 70 days left in this year's session -- not much time to tackle the ambitious agenda before it and certainly not much time to address the critical issue of child care in America.

We all know that the character of the American work force has changed dramatically. Today, well over half of all mothers with small children work outside the home, a number that will continue to grow as women leave the welfare rolls for the workplace. Thirteen million preschool children spend all or part of their day in the care of someone other than a parent, and millions of school-age children need care after school gets out.

Now is the time to act. The legislation that the President and members of Congress -- on both sides of the aisle -- have proposed would significantly increase the number of children receiving child care subsidies, give tax cuts to businesses providing child care and expand child care tax credits to millions of working families. It would also augment after-school programs, improve the quality of child care centers and provide more funds to train workers.

The quality of care children receive in their earliest months and years profoundly affects their intellectual development. I know that all parents, myself included, worry about whether child care will be good or bad for their children. New research shows that quality child care -- meaning care with lots of positive interaction between children and caregivers -- can be healthy for a child's cognitive and language development.

But quality care is of limited value if it's out of reach for most working parents. About half of America's families with young children earn less than $35,000 per year, and for them, child care -- which typically costs between $4,000 and $10,000 per child annually -- is a significant financial burden.

Federal, state and local government programs provide subsidies for some working parents, but many others who need help aren't getting it. Some don't meet the low eligibility limits set by their states. Some don't know they're eligible. And some states just don't have the money to meet every eligible family's needs.

Not only do government programs have a role in helping families such as Gilbert's, but employers can provide effective support and understanding, as well. Here's the good news: Workplace policies that help families also benefit employers and the bottom line.

Not long ago, it wouldn't have occurred to anyone to involve an agency such as the Treasury Department in child care issues. But American business is learning that good child care is good business. So, last October, at the White House Conference on Child Care, the President asked Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin to convene a group of business and labor leaders to look at the child care problems facing working parents.

In a report released this week at the White House, they highlight some of the great family-friendly programs taking place in businesses across the country. The CEOs of these businesses have figured out that if they're going to hang onto their most valuable asset -- their workers -- they need to provide a work environment that works for families.

What did they find were the benefits of these programs? Improved employee morale, reduced turnover and absenteeism, and increased productivity.

For example, Lexis-Nexis reduced operating expenses by more than 45 percent through a telecommuting program and a flexible work environment for parents. First Tennessee Bank saw reduced turnover costs of more than $1 million annually from work and family programs, including more flexible scheduling. Johnson & Johnson realized more than $4 for every $1 invested in its work and family programs. And Lancaster Laboratories now has a turnover rate one-half the industry average, in part due to an on-site child care center.

It is the job of parents -- not the government and not the private sector -- to decide what kind of child care works best for them. But government and the private sector do have a role in making sure that affordable, quality care is within reach for every family who needs it. And that is good for everybody's bottom line.

Talking it Over

Read our Privacy Policy

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1998

FINAL-REVISED

WASHINGTON, DC

MAYFLOWER HOTEL

LEAD ADVANCE:	SETTI WARREN	
	202/547-8318	PHONE
	WHCA PAGER	#4052
SITE ADVANCE:	VIRGINIA RUSTIQUE	
	202/456-6493	PHONE
	WHCA PAGER	#4308
PRESS ADVANCE:	MARISA LUZZATO	
	WHCA PAGER	#4826
SCHEDULER:	EVAN RYAN	
	202/456-6751	PHONE
	202/456-5340	FAX
	202/483-0383	HOME
	WHCA PAGER	#4223

PREV RON The White House

8:20 am-
8:30 am

BRIEFING
Diplomatic Reception Room
CLOSED PRESS/NO WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:
The First Lady
Jennifer Klein
Nicole Rabner

CONTACT: Jennifer Klein 202/456-2599

8:30 am-
9:10 am

TREASURY WORKING GROUP MEETING
Map Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:
The First Lady
17 Treasury Department Working Group Members and Advisors (see briefing book)

CONTACT: Jennifer Klein 202/456-2599

9:15 am- 9:45 am	**BRIEFING** Oval Office **CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO** **PARTICIPANTS:** The President The First Lady Jennifer Klein Nicole Rabner Bruce Reed Melanne Verveer **CONTACT:** Bruce Reed 202/456-6515
9:50 am- 10:00 am	**MEET & GREET** Oval Office **CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO** **PARTICIPANTS:** The President The First Lady 32 Treasury Department Working Group Members **CONTACT:** Bruce Reed 202/456-6515
10:00 am- 10:45 am	**CHILD CARE EVENT** Rose Garden Rain Site: 450 OEOB **POOL PRESS/WH PHOTO** **FORMAT:** -The First Lady makes remarks and introduces Secretary Shalala. -Secretary Shalala makes remarks and introduces Secretary Alexis Herman. -Secretary Alexis Herman makes brief remarks and introduces Randall Tobias, Chairman and CEO, of Eli Lilly and Co. -Randall Tobias makes brief remarks and introduces The President. -The President makes remarks.

	-The President and The First Lady depart. **PARTICIPANTS:** 150 guests expected. **CONTACT:** Bruce Reed 202/456-6515
11:00 am- 11:15 am	**LESSONS WITHOUT BORDERS VIDEO TAPING** Diplomatic Reception Room **USAID FILM CREW/WH PHOTO** **CONTACT:** Michael O'Mary 202/456-5708
11:15 am- 4:45 pm	**DOWN TIME**
4:50 pm	**DEPART** South Portico **EN ROUTE** The Mayflower Hotel [drive time: 5 minutes]
4:55 pm	**ARRIVE** The Mayflower Hotel **GREETER:** Lynn Barrack, WLF Conference Co-Chair
5:00 pm- 5:45 pm	**WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION** East Room The Mayflower Hotel Attire: Business Hold: Senate Room Phone: 202/347-3000 Fax: 202/776-9182 Staff Hold: tbd **CLOSED PRESS/DNC PHOTO** **FORMAT:** -The First Lady greets roundtable participants. -The First Lady and guests are seated. -Lynn Barrack, WLF Conference Co-Chair, moderates informal discussion. -At the conclusion of the discussion, The First Lady departs.

PARTICIPANTS: 30 guests expected.

CONTACT: Peg Cusack 202/863-7148

5:45 pm- 5:50 pm	**HOLD** Senate Room
5:50 pm- 6:15 pm	**PHOTO-RECEIVING LINE w/Mrs. Gore** Cabinet Room The Mayflower Hotel **CLOSED PRESS/DNC PHOTO**

PARTICIPANTS: 80 guests expected.

CONTACT: Peg Cusack 202/863-7148

6:20 pm- 7:00 pm	**WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM CONFERENCE** State Room The Mayflower Hotel **OPEN PRESS(for remarks only)**

FORMAT:

-The First Lady and Mrs. Gore are announced onto stage by Former Governor Ann Richards.

-Ann Richards introduces Mrs. Gore.

-Mrs. Gore makes remarks and introduces The First Lady.

-The First Lady makes remarks.

-The First Lady and Mrs. Gore work a ropeline and depart.

PARTICIPANTS: 250 guests expected.

CONTACT: Peg Cusack 202/863-7148

7:05 pm	**DEPART** The Mayflower Hotel **EN ROUTE** The White House [drive time: 5 minutes]

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1998

7:10 pm **ARRIVE** The White House

PAGE 5

7:45 pm-
7:50 pm

BRIEFING
Red Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:
The President
The First Lady
The Vice President
Mrs. Gore [T]
Gene Sperling
Capricia Marshall

CONTACT: Gene Sperling 202/456-6630

7:50 pm-
8:00 pm

MEET & GREET
Blue Room
Attire: Business
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS: Appproximately 15 guests expected.
CONTACT: Capricia Marshall 202/456-7136

8:00 pm-
8:20 pm

1993 BUDGET RECEPTION
East Room
Attire: Business
POOL PRESS(for remarks only)/WH PHOTO

FORMAT:

-The First Lady makes remarks and introduces The Vice President.

-The Vice President makes remarks and introduces The President.

-The President makes remarks.

-The President, The First Lady, The Vice President and Mrs. Gore [T], proceed to Blue Room.

PARTICIPANTS: 600-700 guests expected.

CONTACT: Capricia Marshall 202/456-7136

8:25 pm- 9:05 pm	**PHOTO-RECEIVING LINE** Blue Room **CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO**
	PARTICIPANTS: 600-700 guests expected.
	CONTACT: Capricia Marshall 202/456-7136

WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, DC: Cloudy and breezy with intermittent rain. Winds east to northeast at 10 to 18 knots. Low 50. High 58.

April 22, 1998

MEETING WITH TREASURY WORKING GROUP ON CHILD CARE

Date:	**Thursday, April 23, 1998**
Time:	**8:30 -9:10 am**
Location:	**Map Room**
From:	**Nicole Rabner**

I. PURPOSE

To chair the meeting of the Treasury Working Group on Child Care, and to hear from the members of the working group on private sector child care efforts and best practices.

II. BACKGROUND

At the White Conference on Child Care on October 23, 1997, the President asked Secretary Rubin to convene a group of businesses and labor leaders to look at child care problems facing working parents, and to identify best practices in the private sector and in public-private partnerships.

This working meeting will precede the Rose Garden ceremony with the President, and represents the group's first formal meeting (they have worked together until now through staff and by conference call). The purpose of the meeting is for the members to discuss with you, from their own experiences and from their work in the group, issues relating to business involvement in providing child care assistance --in a variety of ways, large and small --to their workers.

The members of the group are: Sandy Weill, CEO, The Travelers Group; Randy Tobias, President, Eli Lilly; John Sweeney, President, AFL-CIO; Doug Price, CEO, First Bank of Colorado; George Stinson, President and CEO, General Converters and Assemblers; and Marçy Whitebook, National Co-Director, Center for the Child Care Workforce. The group relied heavily on advisors, including: Ted Childs, IBM; Ellen Galinsky, Families and Work Institute; and Chris Kjeldsen, Johnson & Johnson. (Please note that the group was not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act so *will not* make recommendations to the President.) The working group members and advisors will participate in the meeting. Attached please find brief bios on the participants.

As you know, Secretary Rubin has had to miss this meeting and event because of a family commitment. However, Erskine Bowles will join you for the first half-hour of the meeting.

Attached please find a script for the meeting.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The First Lady
Erskine Bowles
Michael Frogman, Treasury Department Chief of Staff

Members of the Treasury Working Group on Child Care
Doug Price, CEO, First Bank of Colorado
George Stinson, President and CEO, General Converters and Assemblers
Linda Chavez-Thompson, Exec. VP, AFL-CIO (representing John Sweeney, Pres., AFL-CIO)
Randall Tobias, Chairman and CEO, Eli Lilly and Co.
Sanford Weill, Chairman and CEO, Travelers Group
Marcy Whitebook, National co-Director, Center for Child Care Workforce

Advisors to the Treasury Working Group on Child Care
Ellen Galinsky, President, Families & Work Institute
J.T. (Ted) Childs, Jr., Vice President, IBM
Dee Topal, Former President, Travelers Foundation
Chris Kjeldsen, Vice President, Johnson and Johnson
Faith Wohl, President, Child Care Action Campaign
Karen Nussbaum, Director of Women's Bureay, AFL-CIO
Candy Lange, Director, Work Life Strategy, Eli Lilly
Marci Andrews, Public Policy Associate, National Center for Early Childhood Workforce
Charles (Chip) Raymond, President, The Travelers Foundation

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

See attached script.

V. PRESS PLAN

Closed press.

MEETING WITH TREASURY WORKING GROUP ON CHILD CARE
MEETING SCRIPT
April 23, 1998

The First Lady Opens the Meeting

- Thank you all very much for your participation in this working group.

- For many of you, this is not the first time that you worked with us --many of you participated in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development or the White House Conference on Child Care, and we're delighted to have you all here.

- Secretary Rubin very disappointed that a personal commitment is keeping him from joining us today, but I'm delighted to be with you, and I'm pleased that the President's Chief of Staff, Erskine Bowles, could also join us for this important discussion

- Child care is a top priority for the President and me. We are committed to making child care better, safer, and more affordable for America's working families.

- As you know, the President is pursuing a bold legislative agenda on child care. We also want to support more discussion and examination of the role of business in offering child care assistance to their employees. For this reason, the President asked Secretary Rubin and the Treasury Department to lead this effort, and I want to thank them for their work.

The First Lady Turns to Erksine Bowles for a Few Remarks

Erskine Bowles Makes Brief Remarks

The First Lady Begins Discussion

- I know that many of you are leading the way on business involvement in child care issues; some of you have worked together before this project, others have just met. I'm very much looking forward to hearing from all of you about your perspectives on this topic.

- I'd like to first ask the six formal members of the Treasury Working Group on Child Care to say a few words about topics that I understand are of particular concern to them:

Sandy Weill.. BACK-UP CARE
Chairman and CEO, Travelers Group

Randy Tobias..PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND SICK CARE
Chairman and CEO, Eli Lilly and Co.:

Linda Chavez-Thompson.............................BUSINESS/UNION PARTNERSHIPS
Exec. VP, AFL-CIO
(representing John Sweeney, Pres., AFL-CIO)

Doug Price...WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY
CEO, First Bank of Colorado

George Stinson..SMALL BUSINESS
President and CEO
General Converters and Assemblers

Marcy Whitebook...QUALITY/CHILD CARE WORKFORCE
National co-Director
Center for Child Care Workforce

The First Lady Moderates Discussion

- Other Possible Topics:

    Resource and Referral Networks
    On-and Off-Site Care
    Corporate Partnerships
    After-school Care

- Possible Questions

    --How can we all do a better job of encouraging companies to get involved in offering child care assistance? Why do you think more companies don't provide some form of child care benefits?

    --Where do we go from here? What are some of your plans?

'98 APR 22 PM5:53

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1998

CHILD CARE EVENT

DATE: April 23, 1998
LOCATION: Rose Garden
EVENT TIME: 10:00 am - 11:00 am
FROM: Bruce Reed

I. PURPOSE

To urge congressional action on child care, and release two reports documenting business efforts on child care: (1) the Treasury Working Group on Child Care report, *Investing in Child Care*; and (2) the Department of Labor report, *Meeting the Needs of Today's Workforce: Child Care Best Practices.* You will also announce a new commitment by the Department of Labor to serve as a clearinghouse for businesses interested in child care, and to set up a business-to-business mentoring program on child care.

II. BACKGROUND

Legislative Update on Child Care
While the event will spotlight best practices in the corporate community and urge greater private sector commitment to child care, the purpose of this event is to emphasize the importance of a federal commitment to child care and to urge Congress to act on child care legislation this year. Numerous child care bills have been introduced by Democrats and by Republicans since you announced your child care initiative earlier this year. Many of the bills incorporate the Administration's key child care priorities -- substantial new subsidies and tax credits to help low- and middle-income families pay for child care; investments to help states and communities improve the quality of early childhood programs; a new tax credit for businesses that provide child care services; and an expansion of before- and after-school programs. Further, several of the tobacco proposals (Conrad, Fazio, and Kennedy) would direct a portion of tobacco revenue to child care and early childhood programs.

Some key Members of Congress are committed to Congressional action on child care this year, including Senators Dodd, Kennedy, Kerry, Chafee and Snowe, and Representatives Kennelly, Tauscher, and DeLauro. Importantly, the bipartisan Congressional Women's Caucus, led by Representatives Norton and Johnson, recently released a letter to Speaker Gingrich urging that Congress pass child care legislation.

Despite the interest in child care, there are serious obstacles to enacting the Administration's proposals. First, as you know, the Senate Budget Resolution targets all tobacco funds to Medicare. While the Resolution allows for up to $9 billion for expanded child care tax credits and $5 billion to increase discretionary spending for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, offsets would have to be found for these expansions. Second, both Houses have passed resolutions emphasizing that any child care proposal must include significant new funding for stay-at-home parents, thereby pitting child care investments against programs and tax cuts that would help parents who stay home care for their children. Third, many Democrats are more interested in using child care as a political issue in an election year than in passing a bill this session. Finally, the Republican leadership is stalling child care legislation for political reasons. The House Ways and Means Committee has not scheduled any hearings on child care, and Senator Chafee was only recently able to schedule a child care hearing before his Finance Subcommittee.

Release of Final Report of Treasury Working Group on Child Care
Investing in Child Care is the final report of the Treasury Working Group on Child Care, which you asked Secretary Rubin to lead at the White House Conference on Child Care. This initiative has garnered significant enthusiasm from the children's advocacy community, as it represents the first time a Treasury Secretary has focused on child care issues. The report discusses what businesses can do to promote access to affordable, high quality child care for their employees, highlights a wide range of best practices, and presents evidence that investing in child care makes good business sense. The Working Group report finds that, while only one percent of revenues for child care and early education come from the private sector, businesses benefit from providing child care assistance in a variety of ways -- through improved productivity, lower turnover, better recruitment, reduced absenteeism, and improved morale.

The Treasury Working Group will meet with the First Lady and Erskine Bowles before this event. The Working Group consists of business and labor leaders, and includes Sandy Weill, CEO, The Travelers Group; Randy Tobias, President, Eli Lilly; John Sweeney, President, AFL-CIO; Doug Price, CEO, FirstBank of Colorado; George Stinson, President and CEO, General Converters and Assemblers; and Marcy Whitebook, National Co-Director, Center for the Child Care Workforce. (Please note that the group was not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act and therefore *will not* make recommendations.)

Release of Labor Department Report and Announcement of New Commitment
The Labor Department report that will be released at the event, *Meeting the Needs of Today's Workforce: Child Care Best Practices*, highlights best practices of the corporate sector to offer child care assistance to their workers. The examples are primarily gleaned from the Labor Department's Honor Roll of companies with model family-friendly workplace practices. You will also announce a new commitment by the Department of Labor to serve as a clearinghouse for businesses interested in child care, and to set up a business-to-business mentoring program on child care.

Take Our Daughters to Work Day

April 23rd is the sixth annual Take Our Daughters to Work Day. The Ms. Foundation for Women began the program in 1993 to address issues facing adolescent girls aged nine to fifteen. The program gives girls the opportunity to visit a work setting with a parent or friend so they can see all of the different jobs women do. Many guests at this event will have their daughters with them.

III. PARTICIPANTS

- The First Lady
- Secretary Herman
- Secretary Shalala
- Randy Tobias, CEO, Eli Lilly and Co.

Also on stage:
Secretary Aida Alvarez
Members of Congress

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- **YOU** will briefly meet the members of the Treasury Working Group and advisory committee in the Oval Office.
- **YOU** will be announced into the Rose Garden accompanied by the First Lady, Secretary Shalala, Secretary Herman, and Randy Tobias.
- The First Lady will make welcoming remarks and introduce Secretary Shalala.
- Secretary Shalala will make remarks and introduce Secretary Herman.
- Secretary Herman will make remarks and introduce Randy Tobias.
- Randy Tobias will make remarks and introduce **YOU**.
- **YOU** will make remarks and then depart.

VI. REMARKS

Remarks provided by Speechwriting.

MEET AND GREET WITH TREASURY DEPARTMENT WORKING GROUP

Michael Froman, Department of Treasury Chief of Staff (Secretary Rubin is unable to attend due to his wife's surgery.)

Treasury Department Child Care Working Group

Doug Price, CEO, FirstBank of Colorado, Denver, CO
FirstBank of Colorado is the lead bank of the 24 subsidiary banks of FirstBank Holding Company of Colorado, the state's largest locally owned bank. Mr. Price is chairman of the Colorado Business Commission on Child Care Financing, a group appointed by Governor Roy Romer to examine the needs of working parents and their children. FirstBank of Colorado established a reduced hours program in 1989 to provide workers the flexibility to both maintain a career and raise a family.

George Stinson, President & CEO, General Converters & Assemblers, Racine, Wisconsin
For the past 24 years, Mr. Stinson has been the Chairman and President of General Converters and Assemblers, Inc., a 200-person manufacturing company that makes disinfectant tablets and pallets. Mr. Stinson is presently the president of the Racine branch of the NAACP, the CEO of the Southeastern Wisconsin Private Industry Council and Chairman of the Racine County Economic Corporation. Mr. Stinson is an example of a small business leader who is working with other local companies to investigate ways to address child care issues.

AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson (Substituting for John J. Sweeney, President, AFL-CIO)
Ms. Thompson was elected Executive Vice-President in 1995. Ms. Chavez-Thompson has thirty years experience in the labor movement. She rose from the organizing ranks of her union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, to become the first person of color elected to an executive office of the AFL-CIO. She is the highest ranking woman in the labor movement.

Randall Tobias, Chairman & CEO, Eli Lilly and Co., Indianapolis, IN
Mr. Tobias is Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Eli Lilly and Company which develops, manufactures and markets pharmaceuticals and animal products. Mr. Tobias is also on the board of the Phillips Petroleum Company, Kimberly-Clark Corporation, and Knight-Ridder, Inc. In 1996 he was named 1996 CEO Family Champion of the Year by Working Mother Magazine. Eli Lilly is working with state government, other Indiana companies, and the Purdue University Center for Families in a public-private partnership to address the need for sick child care throughout the state.

Sanford Weill, CEO, Travelers Insurance, New York, N.Y.
Mr. Weill is Chairman and Chief Executive Office of Travelers Group, the diversified financial services company. Mr. Weill has a long history of involvement in many aspects of child care which he has acted on in each of his assignments as CEO of American Express, Commercial Credit, Primerica and at his current position at Travelers. Salomon Smith Barney, a Travelers Group subsidiary, offers employees a choice of alternate work arrangements, including flextime, job sharing, and telecommuting. The purpose is to retain employees by helping them balance

work and personal life.

Marcy Whitebook, National Co-Director, National Center for Early Childhood Work Force, San Francisco, CA
The National Center for Early Childhood Work Force works to improve the quality of child care by upgrading the training and compensation of child care teachers and family child care providers. Dr. Whitebook, founding Executive Director of the Center, serves as the organization's Co-Director. She was the Project Director for the *National Child Care Staffing Study, NAEYC Accreditation as a Strategy for Improving Child Care Quality* and *Salary Improvements in Head Start: Lessons for the Early Care and Education Field.*

Advisors
Ellen Galinsky, President, Families & Work Institute, New York, N.Y.
The Families and Work Institute is a non-profit research and planning organization committed to developing new approaches for balancing the changing needs of America's families with the continuing need for workplace productivity. Before founding the Institute, Ms. Galinsky has been an advisor to the U.S. Department of Education on business and family involvement in education and to the U.S. Department of Labor. The Institute conducted the new survey that is highlighted in the report.

J.T. (Ted) Childs, Jr., Vice President of Global Diversity, IBM Corporation, North Tarrytown, NY
Mr. Childs has worldwide responsibility for IBM Corporation's workforce diversity programs and policies. In 1989, he was apppointed by New York Governor Mario Cuomo to the Governor's Advisory Council on Child Care. He is a member of the American Business Collaboration (ABC) of Quality Dependent Care Board of Champions. The ABC is the largest and most comprehensive private sector initiative specifically designed to improve the quality and expand the supply of dependent care. IBM joined with PepsiCo to develop one ofthe first child care centers in northern Westchester County to serve infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in the same setting.

Dee Topol, Former President, Travelers Foundation
Ms. Topol was the President of the Travelers Foundation and directed the company's philanthropic program and foundation activity. She is chair of the Board of the Families and Work Institute; a member of New York State Permanent Interagency Council on Families and Children Advisory Board and a member of the Child Care Action Campaign.

Chris Kjeldsen,Vice President, Community and Workplace Programs, Johnson and Johnson, New Brunswick, New Jersey
In August of 1992, you took a tour of J&J's New Brunswick, N.J. headquarters J&J child development center. Mr. Kjeldsen oversees policies and programs which help Johnson & Johnson employees balance their work and family responsibilities. J&J offers child care consultation and referral through its LifeWorks program. LifeWorks helps J&J employees find and recognize quality child care, locate appropriate care for school-age children after school, plan for maternity/paternity leave and return, and prepare for adoption. J&J is opening its fifth and sixth child care centers within the next 60 days.

Faith Wohl, President, Child Care Action Campaign, New York, N.Y.
The Child Care Action Campaign (CCAC) is a national advocacy organization that works to stimulate and support the development of policies and programs that increase the availabililty of quality affordable child care. Prior to her joining CCAC she worked on Vice President Gore's National Performance Review. She has been Director of the U.S. General Services Administration's Office of Workplace Initiatives and worked for the DuPont, Co. for 20 years. She has been named one of America's "10 Most Admired Women Managers" by Working Woman magazine.

Liaisons

Marci Andrews, Public Policy Associate, National Center for Early Childhood Workforce Washington, D.C.

Candy Lange, Director, Work Life Strategy, Eli Lilly, Co., Indianapolis, IN

Karen Nussbaum, Director of the Women's Bureau, AFL-CIO, Washington, D.C.

Charles (Chip) Raymond, President, The Travelers Foundation, New York, N.Y.

TO:	**THE PRESIDENT** **THE FIRST LADY**
WHAT:	CHILD CARE EVENT
WHEN:	THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1998
WHERE:	BRIEFING, OVAL OFFICE MEET, OVAL OFFICE EVENT, ROSE GARDEN
# OF GUESTS:	APPROX. 150/ OPEN PRESS/ BUSINESS ATTIRE
FROM:	CAPRICIA MARSHALL, LAURA SCHWARTZ

9:15 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT AND THE FIRST LADY** receive briefing in the Oval Office.

9:50 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT AND THE FIRST LADY** greet participants and child care working group members in the Oval Office.

10:00 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT AND THE FIRST LADY** are announced into the Rose Garden, accompanied by Secretary Shalala, Secretary Herman, and Randall Tobias, Chairman and CEO of Eli Lilly and Co.

PROGRAM BEGINS

THE FIRST LADY makes opening remarks and introduces Secretary Shalala.

SECRETARY SHALALA makes remarks and introduces Secretary Herman.

SECRETARY HERMAN makes remarks and introduces Randall Tobias, Chairman and CEO of Eli Lilly and Co.

RANDALL TOBIAS, CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF ELI LILLY AND CO. makes remarks and introduces **THE PRESIDENT.**

THE PRESIDENT makes remarks.

<u>**10:45 a.m.**</u> **THE PRESIDENT AND THE FIRST LADY** depart.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

ROSE GARDEN CHILD CARE EVENT

APRIL 23, 1998

Good morning. The President and I would like to thank all of you for joining us this morning. Welcome to Secretary Herman, Secretary Shalala, members of Congress, business leaders, and child care advocates.

I want to acknowledge members of the Treasury Working Group on Child Care, who I've just met with this morning to discuss the growing role that business is playing in expanding and improving child care. Appreciation to Doug Price, CEO of First Bank of Colorado; George Stinson, CEO of General Converters and Assemblers; John Sweeney, president, AFL-CIO -- and Linda Chavez Thompson who is representing him here today; Randall Tobias, CEO, Eli Lilly; Sanford Weill, CEO of Travelers Group; and Marcy Whitebook, National Co-Director of the Center for the Child Care Workforce. I also want to acknowledge the business leaders here who are members of the Department of Labor's "Honor Roll" of companies who have created more family friendly workplaces. Thank you all for coming.

I'm so pleased that we're also being joined by some of the daughters who are taking part in this year's "Take Your Daughters to Work Day." You are learning not only about a particular job, but also about the many challenges parents face balancing the obligations of work and family. We're here to talk about one very important part of that struggle -- child care.

Forty years ago, when I was growing up, most mothers stayed at home to take care of their children. But, times have changed dramatically, as many of you daughters of working parents know so well. Today, three out of five mothers with children under age six work outside the home, and at least five million school-age children are left unsupervised during those critical after school hours.

Yet while the demand for quality child care is growing, that care is either unavailable or unaffordable for millions of America's working families. For too long, America's parents have struggled with too little information, too few choices, and far too many worries. It's time -- once and for all -- to help our parents succeed at both home and work.

I want you to hear just a few of the voices of those parents who are desperately struggling to find the child care they need. One working mother from Fayetteville, North Carolina writes me that "it takes everything we earn to pay for our house, food, transportation and child care. Something has got to change." Another working parent from New York City, says: "No parent should have to worry about leaving their most precious gift in the hands of strangers."

Today, we are going to hear about important efforts in the private sector to provide child care assistance to our working families. But business alone cannot meet this country's urgent child care needs. Today, only 1% of child care revenue comes from the private sector. We need to encourage the private sector to do more. But here in Washington, we too have an important role to play. That's why the President has proposed, as part of his balanced budget, an historic investment in child care. And many of the members of Congress on both sides of the aisles -- including those here today -- have introduced bills to make child care better, safer, and more affordable.

No parent should ever have to worry that they can't afford child care when they have to work. And no parent should ever have to worry that their children aren't safe in child care.

We have an important opportunity to make a difference. And we must seize it. If we do, millions of America's working parents across the country can look back at this session of Congress and say: America helped fulfill its promise to this nation's working families, and invested in future of our next generation.

Now I'd like to introduce the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala.

Washington Times 4-23-9
4/23/98

Talking It Over

By Hillary Rodham Clinton

Affordable child care good for bottom line

The need for child care has become a fact of American life. But not all parents are able to afford or find the child care they need.

Gilbert Ayala of San Jose, Calif., is a perfect example. When his wife was hospitalized, Mr. Ayala was forced to stay home to care for their 3-year-old son. He was on three waiting lists for child care help so that he could return to work and support his family, but before assistance came, he lost his job and their apartment. He and his son for a time lived out of their car before finding a room to rent.

Legislation before Congress is designed to help families like Mr. Ayala's. Congress has fewer than 70 days left in this year's session — not much time to tackle the ambitious agenda before it, and certainly not much time to address the critical issue of child care in America.

We all know that the character of the American work force has changed dramatically. Today, well over half of all mothers with small children work outside the home, a number that will continue to grow as women leave the welfare rolls for the workplace. Thirteen million preschool children spend all or part of their day in the care of someone other than a parent, and millions of school-age children need care after school gets out.

Now is the time to act. The legislation that the president and members of Congress — on both sides of the aisle — have proposed would significantly increase the number of children receiving child care subsidies, give tax cuts to businesses providing child care and expand child care tax credits to millions of working families. It would also augment after-school programs, improve the quality of child care centers and provide more funds to train workers.

The quality of care children receive in their earliest months and years profoundly affects their intellectual development. I know that all parents, myself included, worry about whether child care will be good or bad for their children. New research shows that high-quality child care — meaning care with lots of positive interaction between children and caregivers — can be healthy for a child's cognitive and language development.

But high-quality care is of limited value if it's out of reach for most working parents. About half of America's families with young children earn less than $35,000 per year, and for them, child care — which typically costs between $4,000 and $10,000 per child annually — is a significant financial burden.

Federal, state and local government programs provide subsidies for some working parents, but many others who need help aren't getting it. Some don't meet the low eligibility limits set by their states. Some don't know they're eligible. And some states just don't have the money to meet every eligible family's needs.

Not only do government programs have a role in helping families such as Mr. Ayala's, but employers can provide effective support and understanding, as well. Here's the good news: Workplace policies that help families also benefit employers and the bottom line.

Not long ago, it wouldn't have occurred to anyone to involve an agency such as the Treasury Department in child care issues. But American business is learning that good child care is good business. So, last October, at the White House Conference on Child Care, the president asked Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin to convene a group of business and labor leaders to look at the child care problems facing working parents.

In a report released this week at the White House, they highlight some of the great family-friendly programs taking place in businesses across the country. The CEOs of these businesses have figured out that if they're going to hang onto their most valuable asset — their workers — they need to provide a work environment that works for families.

What did they find were the benefits of these programs? Improved employee morale, reduced turnover and absenteeism, and increased productivity.

For example, Lexis-Nexis reduced operating expenses by more than 45 percent through a telecommuting program and a flexible work environment for parents. First Tennessee Bank saw reduced turnover costs of more than $1 million annually from work and family programs, including more flexible scheduling. Johnson & Johnson realized more than $4 for every $1 invested in its work and family programs. And Lancaster Laboratories now has a turnover rate that's half the industry average, in part due to an on-site child care center.

It is the job of parents — not the government and not the private sector — to decide what kind of child care works best for them. But government and the private sector do have a role in making sure that affordable, high-quality care is within reach for every family who needs it. And that is good for everybody's bottom line.

• *To find out more about first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page (www.creators.com).*

The Associated Press

View Related Topics

April 23, 1998, Thursday, PM cycle

SECTION: Business News

LENGTH: 729 words

HEADLINE: Clinton puts **child care** on center stage

BYLINE: By SONYA ROSS, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:
President Clinton applauded private businesses today for recognizing the value of **child care** and said Congress should follow their lead and approve his $ 21 billion plan for subsidies.

"This year we shouldn't slide by it," the president told a White House Rose Garden Take Our Daughters to Work Day audience of corporate executives, White House aides and their children.

He told reporters he was willing to negotiate with Republicans supporting tax credits for stay-at-home parents over his own $ 21.7 billion plan, which centers on **child care** subsidies. "We need to have a discussion about it. ... It's not an either-or deal," he said.

Clinton was less conciliatory in his formal remarks and once more accused lawmakers of preferring to spend on roads - in a massive transportation bill - rather than on children.

"I think we have to have a road that will guarantee that people will not have to choose between being good parents" and good workers, Clinton said.

"You look around at all these children today and at their parents beaming about them: I don't really believe that any part of our infrastructure is more important than they are."

With his wife **Hillary** Rodham **Clinton** at his side, the president touted new government findings on the ways businesses can help their employees get affordable care and the benefits businesses gain from doing it.

He formally received two reports on the issue: a Treasury Department-commissioned survey of 1,100 companies and a Labor Department analysis of about 40 companies with "promising practices" on **child care.**

The Treasury-commissioned study, conducted by the advocacy group Families and Work Institute, found that more than two-thirds of companies surveyed said providing **child care** for workers either provided greater benefit than costs or was cost-neutral. The institute has worked with Mrs. Clinton on the subject.

At the ceremony, Mrs. Clinton said: "Business alone - no matter how enlightened about their own self interest, or how much of an investment they make - cannot alone meet this country's urgent **child care** needs. Here in Washington we too have an important role to play."

The research was released as groups of lawmakers on Capitol Hill began calling for action either on

Clinton's proposal or variations of it.

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, appearing with the Clintons, said of the president's proposed legislation: "Congress better not go home without it."

With November's congressional elections approaching, the administration has made plain that it will make political hay of its priority issues - education, **child care** and the environment - unless the Republican-led Congress approves his Democratic agenda.

On Capitol Hill, lawmakers led by Sen. John Chafee, R-R.I., favor a $ 15 billion proposal that would double the money for **child care** block grants that now subsidize care for lower-income families, would increase the tax credit for working families and would offer a modest, new credit to families where one parent stays at home.

"Tax policy should not favor one arrangement over another," Chafee said Wednesday.

But liberal Democrats complained that Chafee's tax credit is nonrefundable and therefore of no benefit to low-income families that earn too little to pay any taxes.

"The contradiction here is support for stay-at-home moms if they're middle-income," said Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Ill. She advocated help for poor women being kicked off welfare and into the work force.

Senate Democrats, led by Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, have their own $ 25 billion bill to provide a refundable credit for stay-at-home mothers with children under age 1. Chafee's tax credit would be available to families with children up to age 3.

In the Treasury survey, almost three-fourths of the companies said benefits from offering flexible work schedules and family leave exceeded the costs of the programs or were cost-neutral.

"Lack of access to affordable, quality **child care** may make it difficult for businesses to hire qualified employees," the study said. "Productive and valued employees may leave their jobs because of **child care** problems, increasing hiring and training costs."

It said employees having "to take time off because of **child care** problems or spend time at work handling **child care** concerns ... can reduce productivity and profits."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 23, 1998

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Search: General News;child care and hillary w/2 clinton

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

[ ] FOCUS
Example: **House of Representatives**

The Associated Press

View Related Topics

April 23, 1998, Thursday, AM cycle

SECTION: Business News

LENGTH: 613 words

HEADLINE: Clinton urges Congress to help working parents with **child care** costs

BYLINE: By SONYA ROSS, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Urging lawmakers to "just stand up and say yes or no," President Clinton again pressed Congress on Thursday to act on one of his domestic proposals. This time it was a plan to help working parents afford good **child care.**

The president left room for negotiation on tax credits for stay-at-home parents, a point advocated by some Republicans.

"It's not an either-or deal. We're not against helping all parents," Clinton said. "But the question is, most parents are in the work force and we have to do something serious about it."

GOP lawmakers said they would make sure the president's **child care** plan does not overlook families with only one working parent.

"I look forward to reviewing the president's proposal to spend more money, but in the process I intend to ensure that we don't discriminate against families choosing to have one parent stay at home to raise their children," said Rep. E. Clay Shaw Jr., R-Fla., a member of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

Republicans, led by Sen. John Chafee, R-R.I., favor a $ 15 billion proposal that would double the money for **child care** block grants that now subsidize care for lower-income families, increase the tax credit for working families and offer a modest, new credit to families with one working parent. It would apply to families with children up to age 3.

Some Democrats object to that plan, saying it would be of little benefit to low-income families that earn too little to pay any taxes. Senate Democrats, led by Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, have their own $ 25 billion bill that would, among other things, provide a refundable credit for stay-at-home mothers with children under age 1.

At a Rose Garden ceremony, Clinton touted two reports by the Treasury and Labor departments that spell out positive corporate efforts on **child care.** He also said the issue before Congress is not his proposal but lawmakers' willingness to determine "whether the national government has a responsibility to do more" for working parents.

"In other words, do you believe that this should be an urgent priority for America? That is the decision every member of Congress should make," he said. "And this year, we shouldn't slide by it. Everybody should just stand up and say yes or no, because the budget is going to be in balance."

First lady **Hillary** Rodham **Clinton,** who also attended the ceremony, said even the most enlightened businesses cannot meet the nation's **child care** needs without help. "Here in Washington we, too, have an important role to play," she said.

Peering at children of White House staffers and others participating in Take Our Daughters to Work Day, the president warned Congress against sending a message that it is willing to spend more money on a huge transportation bill than on children's needs.

"It is wrong to pretend that there are no choices here," Clinton said. "I don't really believe that any part of our infrastructure is more important than they are."

Thursday's event was part of a week focusing on the president's domestic agenda. Those issues - tobacco regulation, education, **child care,** school violence and environmental protection - are central to the White House's strategy for helping Democrats in this year's mid-term elections.

The administration made plain Thursday it will get maximum mileage out of those issues until congressional Republicans act on them or flat-out oppose them.

"It is an investment in this country's future," Health and Human Service Secretary Donna Shalala said of the **child care** measure. "And all Congress has to do is pass it. Like the president's children's tobacco initiative, Congress better not go home without it."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 23, 1998

FOCUSTM
Search: General News;child care and hillary w/2 clinton

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

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Example: **House of Representatives**

April 23, 1998; Thursday 04:31 Eastern Time

SECTION: Washington - general news

LENGTH: 484 words

HEADLINE: Clintons Push **Child Care** Subsidies

BYLINE: SONYA ROSS

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

President Clinton is hoping the stories of improved performance at companies that assist working parents will lead Congress to approve his $21 billion **child care** plan.

The president planned a Rose Garden appearance with first lady **Hillary** Rodham **Clinton** today to tout new government findings on the ways businesses can help their employees get affordable care and the benefits those businesses gain from doing so.

He also planned to press Congress to provide help for working families, renewing his request for $21.7 billion in **child care** subsidies.

Clinton was to formally receive two reports on the issue: a Treasury Department-commissioned survey of 1,100 companies and a Labor Department analysis of about 40 companies with "promising practices" on **child care.**

The research was released as different groups of lawmakers on Capitol Hill began calling for action either on Clinton's proposal or variations of it.

One group, led by Sen. John Chafee, R-R.I., favors a $15 billion proposal that would double the money for **child care** block grants that now subsidize care for lower-income families, would increase the tax credit for working families and would offer a modest, new credit to families where one parent stays at home.

"Tax policy should not favor one arrangement over another," Chafee said during a Senate Finance subcommittee hearing Wednesday.

But liberal Democrats complained that Chafee's tax credit is non-refundable and therefore of no benefit to low-income families that earned too little to pay any taxes.

"The contradiction here is support for stay-at-home moms if they're middle-income," said Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Ill. She advocated help for poor women being kicked off welfare and into the work force.

Senate Democrats, led by Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, have their own $25 billion bill to provide a refundable credit for stay-at-home mothers with children under age 1. Chafee's tax credit would be available to families with children up to age 3.

The Treasury-commissioned study conducted by the Families and Work Institute, an advocacy group that has advised Mrs. Clinton _ found that more than two-thirds of companies surveyed said providing **child care** for workers either provided greater benefit than costs or was cost-neutral.

Almost three-fourths of the companies said the benefits from offering flexible work schedules and family leave exceeded the costs of the programs or were cost-neutral.

"Lack of access to affordable, quality **child care** may make it difficult for businesses to hire qualified employees," the study said. "Productive and valued employees may leave their jobs because of **child care** problems, increasing hiring and training costs."

It said employees having "to take time off because of **child care** problems or spend time at work handling **child care** concerns ... can reduce productivity and profits."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 23, 1998

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Example: **House of Representatives**

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 23, 1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PROPOSAL:
CHILD CARE THAT STRENGTHENS AMERICAN FAMILIES

"Not a single American family should ever have to choose between the job they need and the child they love."

President Bill Clinton
State of the Union Address,
January 27, 1998

President Clinton announced an historic initiative to improve child care for America's working families. The initiative proposes over $20 billion over five years for 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.

Ensuring affordable, accessible, safe child care. The President's childcare initiative responds to the struggles our nation's working parents face in finding child care they can afford, trust and rely on. The new initiative:

Makes child care more affordable for working families. To help working families struggling to meet the costs of child care, the initiative invests $7.5 billion over five years to double the number of children receiving child care subsidies to more than two million by the year 2003. The initiative also invests $5.1 billion over five years to increase tax credits for child care for three million families and provides a new tax credit for businesses that offer child care services to their employees at a cost of $500 million over five years.

Increases access to and promotes early learning and healthy child development. To improve early learning, the initiative includes $3 billion over five years to establish an Early Learning Fund that helps local communities improve the quality and safety of child care for children ages zero to five. The initiative also increases investment in Head Start and doubles the number of children served by Early Head Start to 80,000.

Improves the safety and quality of child care. To help ensure safe, quality child care, the initiative: steps up enforcement of state health and safety standards in child care settings, facilitates background checks on child care providers, increases scholarships and training for child care providers, and invests in child care research and evaluation.

Expands access to safe after-school care. To help create safe, positive learning environments for American school-age children who lack adult supervision during a typical week, the initiative increases the 21st Century Learning Center Program by $800 million over five years to provide after-school care for up to half a million children a year.

LEVEL 1 - 30 OF 111 STORIES

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

April 28, 1998, Tuesday

SECTION: Wisconsin; Pg. a 11

LENGTH: 421 words

HEADLINE: Hillary pushes child care

BYLINE: Associated Press

BODY:

MILWAUKEE (AP) - Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday the Republican-led Congress is dragging its feet on crucial child-care legislation that she called vital to working parents.

"We have a lot of children who need good quality child care," Mrs. Clinton said at a forum on child care in Milwaukee. "Yet we have an opportunity now that is not moving the way it should through the Congress."

"We have to do more to make it clear to Congress that this is not a partisan issue."

Before the speech, Mrs. Clinton toured a day-care center at Milwaukee Area Technical College and later appeared at a $150-a-ticket fund-raiser for Democratic congressional candidate Lydia Spottswood.

Mrs. Clinton would not answer questions about her five hours of videotaped testimony on the Whitewater investigation Saturday.

In Milwaukee, 3- and 5-year-old children sang to Mrs. Clinton at the day-care center and presented her with a teddy bear and a story book.

"Is this a good story?" Mrs. Clinton asked the children, who crowded around her to see the book. "I'm going to read this book."

At the forum, Mrs. Clinton's talk turned to her husband's child-care proposals in his State of the Union address in January.

Among other things, President Clinton proposed spending billions on what he called the nation's largest expansion of child care, boosting subsidies available to low-income parents and sweetening tax credits for parents on child care.

"Child care is a No. 1 priority," she said. "You know it from your own lives and work. And yet why is it that we've been unable to create a national consensus and create an opportunity in Congress to support American families so that parents can be both good parents and good workers?"

Mrs. Clinton said quality, affordable care for children "profoundly affects how they develop and grow and learn over a lifetime."

She urged the audience to lobby Congress to pass her husband's child-care proposals. However, following a familiar theme from her book, "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child," Mrs. Clinton said the community has to work for children too.

"Even if it's passed by the Congress, the hard work of providing quality child care will happen right here in Milwaukee," she said.

Her tone became more political at the fund-raiser for Spottswood, who is seeking the seat begin vacated by Rep. Mark Neumann, R-Wis., who is running for the U.S. Senate.

Mrs. Clinton told the audience the Spottswood campaign is a key to the Democrats taking back the U.S. House.

GRAPHIC: Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks Monday at a forum on child care at Milwaukee Area Technical College. (AP photo)

LOAD-DATE: April 28, 1998