

**ARCHIVING ISSUES OF
THE FIRST LADY:

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

AFTERSCHOOL

VIOLENCE**

BOOK 1 of 3

**ARCHIVING:
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AFTER-
SCHOOL, VIOLENCE**

MENT/
VIOLENCE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT/
AFTERSCHOOL/VIOLENCE

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

**ARCHIVING:
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT / AFTERSCHOOL / VIOLENCE**

May 14, 2000	Million Mom March
May 10, 2000	Column: Million Mom March
May 3, 2000	Column: The White House Conference on Teenagers
May 2, 2000	The White House Conference on Teenagers: Raising Responsible and Resourceful Youth (see briefing binder)
March 29, 2000	Column: Teen Smoking
March 8, 2000	Column: Common Sense Gun Laws
February 23, 2000	Reception in Honor of the D.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Remarks by the First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
February 23, 2000	Column: D.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Launch
December 21, 1999	Media Violence Roundtable Discussion
December 13, 1999	School Violence Event
November 10, 1999	Remarks on the Covenant for the Prevention of Violence, Elem Youth Center, Kfar Saba, Israel
November 10, 1999	"From Violence to Dialogue" Conference, Tel Aviv
August 18, 1999	Column: Youth Violence
August 17, 1999	Announcement of Youth Anti-Violence Initiatives
June 10, 1999	Youth Violence Event
June 4, 1999	ABC Good Morning America Special on School Violence
June 4, 1999	Interview with Charles Gibson and Diane Sawyer for Good Morning America
June 2, 1999	Column: Youth and Violence in the Media
June 1, 1999	Youth Violence Announcement

May 20, 1999	Meeting with Families of Victims of Columbine High School Shootings
May 12, 1999	Column: Guns, Kids and Youth Violence
May 10, 1999	Remarks by the First Lady after White House Strategy Session on Children, Violence, and Responsibility
May 8, 1999	Highlighting the Importance of Keeping Children Safe From Guns
April 28, 1999	Column: Columbine
April 27, 1999	Remarks by the First Lady on Gun Control Legislation
April 22, 1999	Remarks on receiving the Albert Shanker Award for Distinguished Service
March 10, 1999	Column: Girls and Sports
March 4, 1999	Highlighting the Importance of Involving Girls in Sports
February 3, 1999	Project Children
January 7, 1999	Announcement to Increase After School Programs and End Social Promotions
December 2, 1998	Police Athletic League's Women of the Year Luncheon
December 1, 1998	First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton People Magazine/Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Luncheon
November 18, 1998	Column: After-School
October 15, 1998	White House Conference on School Safety – Causes and Prevention of Youth Violence
October 7, 1998	Coming Up Taller Awards Event
October 7, 1998	Column: Juvenile Justice Legislation
September 18, 1998	Official Launching of the Capitol Campaign for the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center
August 3, 1998	Youth at Risk Dinner

April 97
Teen Day event

April 14, 1998

Teenagers Fight Back Against Hate a Joint Program of the ADL's a World of Difference Institute and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America

April 8, 1998

Column: School Shootings

January 26, 1998

Virtual Y Child Care Event

January 26, 1998

Announcement of Mott Foundation Commitment to Expand After-School Care for Children

January 13, 1998

After School Event

June 14, 1996

Youth Talk: A City Listens to Children

June 7, 1996

Manchester Craftsmen's Guild Discussion

May 22, 1996

Colorado Listens to Kids Denver, CO

April 26, 1996

Launched PCAH report *Coming Up Taller* at Arts for At-Risk Youth Event

March 8, 1996

Remarks on Teen Smoking and Violence in the Media to the Parents Teachers Association

August 15, 1994

Remarks to the National Conference on Youth Violence

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

May 12, 2000

MILLION MOM MARCH

DATE: Sunday, May 14
TIME: 10:45 am – tbd
LOCATION: The National Mall
Washington, D.C.
FROM: Brenda Costello

I. PURPOSE

To help celebrate Mother's Day and support stronger gun laws by participating in the Million Mom March on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

II. BACKGROUND

Following the South Lawn Rally with President Clinton in support of the Million Mom March, you will participate in the Million Mom March on the National Mall. Over 150,000 mothers, fathers, children and supporters are expected to gather in Washington, D.C., calling on Congress to pass common-sense gun legislation.

The event, which is actually a march and rally, is a day-long event beginning with an interfaith service in the morning, the "stroller march" at 11:00am, followed by a speaking program (attached) and entertainment and interactive activities for families throughout the day. Led by Rosie O'Donnell, the March will feature numerous speakers, including mothers from across the country, Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, Mrs. Virginia Hayes Williams, mother of D.C. Mayor Tony Williams, Anna Quindlen, Maryland Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and many actors and performers.

As you know, the President met with March organizers last Friday and discussed how they became involved in the drive for gun safety measures, the status of rallies planned around the country, as well as MMM goals for the future. Approximately 15 community activists attended the meeting, many of whom have lost children, spouses or friends to gun violence. Participants included Donna Dees-Thomases, the Million Mom March founder, and Veronica McQueen, whose six-year old daughter, Kayla Rolland, was killed in the recent shooting in Flint, Michigan.

Million Mom March

(Background from President's meeting with MMM organizers)

Scheduled to take place on Mother's Day, May 14, the March was conceived by Donna Dees-Thomases last summer in response to the shooting at a daycare center in Los Angeles. Its goal is to push Congress and other political leaders to take common sense action to protect children from gun violence. The steering committee for the March includes the Bell Campaign, a victim-led grassroots organization committed to preventing gun death and injury; PAX, a youth

organization working to end gun violence; Handgun Control; and the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. (Background on these groups is attached)

Momentum for the March has been building. There are now rallies scheduled in 62 communities, including Los Angeles, Denver, Atlanta and Chicago. The expectation for March has been that a million people across the country will march – not that there would be a million in any one city.

Policy Goals

The Million Mom March has several key policy goals on its agenda for common sense gun safety measures. The group has been most vocal in their support for licensing and registration of guns. While they are pleased with President Clinton's overall position on guns, they had expressed some earlier disappointment that he did not propose registration along with handgun licensing proposal in the State of the Union.

In addition to licensing and registration, the group supports greater regulation of the design and manufacture of guns and ammunition – either at the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) or at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF). Among some of the specific design criteria they specifically support are: a ban on military-style assault weapons; a requirement that locking devices that be integrated into the design of each gun; a requirement that domestically-made guns meet the standards for imported guns (effectively banning cheap, "junk guns"); and other safety measures that make it more difficult for children to fire weapons and for gun accidents to occur. The President has supported many of these safety proposals through legislation and the Smith and Wesson agreement. The Administration has been silent on granting greater regulatory authority to the ATF or CPSC, choosing to instead focus new legislative efforts on licensing while continuing to build support for the more viable issues before the Congress, such as gun shows and child safety locks.

The group also supports tighter controls over the distribution of guns, Including: limiting handgun sales to one per month; closing the gun show loophole; greater investigation of gun dealers who are identified as large suppliers of crime guns; and more funding for the ATF to allow greater oversight of the gun industry. And finally, the Million Moms March has called for the gun industry to halt marketing to children and criminals. The President's budget proposal, legislation proposals, and the Smith and Wesson agreement support these goals.

Format

You will first gather at the March starting point with a group of approximately 200 VIPs, including Secretary Albright, Mrs. Gore, elected officials, March organizers and mothers from across the country. Rosie O'Donnell, MC of the March, will also attend. You will march with this group approximately 3 blocks.

III. PARTICIPANTS

- The First Lady
- Secretary Albright
- Senator Barbara Boxer
- Mrs. Gore
- Karennna Gore Schiff
- Rosie O'Donnell
- Members of Congress (tbd)
- Local and Statewide MMM organizers

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- The First Lady joins VIPs at starting point on 12th Street
- The First lady walks three blocks to 9th Street
- The First Lady departs

V. PRESS

Open press.

VI. REMARKS

None necessary.

DRAFT – WILL CHANGE
5/12/00 12:57 PM

Million Mom March
National Mall ~ May 14, 2000
Main Program
11:30 a.m. ~ 3:00 p.m.

Mistress of Ceremonies: *Rosie O'Donnell, National Talk Show Host*
Off-stage Announcer: *Adimu Colon, Host of BET's Teen Summit*

Prelude: Crowd Building (11:30 a.m. ~ 12:00 p.m.)

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 11:29 ~ 11:30 | Off-stage intro and positioning of Ted Christopher and World Children's Choir |
| 11:31 ~ 11:36 | Ted Christopher performs song, backed up by World Children's Choir |
| 11:37 ~ 11:38 | Off-stage introduction of Kerry Kennedy Cuomo |
| 11:39 ~ 11:40 | Kerry Kennedy Cuomo introduces Dunblane Moms (Alison Crozier, Kareen Turner and Karen Scott) |
| 11:41 ~ 11:43 | Karen Scott (Dunblane Mom) speaks |
| 11:44 ~ 11:45 | Off-stage introduction of Ted Christopher |
| 11:46 ~ 11:51 | Musical Selection (T. Christopher) |
| 11:52 ~ 11:53 | Off-stage introduction of Jamie Foster Brown |
| 11:54 ~ 11:55 | Jamie Foster Brown introduces Tanya Blount |
| 11:56 ~ 12:00 | Tanya Blount performs |

Welcome and Defining the Day

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 12:00 ~ 12:01 | Off-stage introduction of Mrs. Virginia Hayes Williams and families from Washington, D.C. who have been affected by gun violence. |
| 12:02 ~ 12:04 | Mrs. Virginia Hayes Williams welcomes marchers to Nation's Capitol on behalf of the Mayor. |

- 12:05 ~ 12:06** Off-stage introduction of Donna Greenwald
- 12:07 ~ 12:10** National Anthem performed by Donna Greenwald
- 12:11 ~ 12:20** Adimu Colon rolls Bell on stage accompanied by twelve children/victims. He introduces himself, explains the purpose of bell. Each child will ring the bell, followed in total by a moment of silence.
- 12:21 ~ 12:27** Urban Nation Performs (Name on jumbotron)
- 12:28 ~ 12:29** Off-stage introduction of Rosie O'Donnell
- 12:30 ~ 12:33** Rosie provides opening remarks, highlights some of the activities on the Mall, encourages people to visit the Tapestry of Hope, the Mother's Day card tent and to stop by Voter.com to register to vote.
- 12:34 ~ 12:50** Moms Speak
- Renee Marsh-Williams and Laura Wallace (Wilson High School ~ mothers of Natasha Marsh and Andre Wallace)
 - Dawn Anna (Columbine)
 - Yvonne Pope (Brooklyn, Afr Am)
 - Gail Thorson (Empire State shooting)
 - Patricia Anderson (Native American)
 - Mindy Finkelstein (Granada Hills)
 - Mieko Hattori (Louisiana)
 - Veronica McQueen (Kayla's Mom)
- (Production Note: Photos of their children on the jumbotron as they speak)**
- 12:51 ~ 12:52** Off-stage introduction of Melissa Manchester
- 12:53 ~ 12:58** Melissa Manchester sings "A Mother's Prayer" written for this event
- 12:59 ~ 1:00** Off-stage Introduction of Raffi
- 1:00 ~ 1:05** Raffi performs
- 1:06 ~ 1:07** Rosie introduces those affected by gun violence in their everyday lives as well as victims of gun violence.
- 1:07 ~ 1:23** Advocates Speak
- Ryan Martin, Yale Med Student, shot and in wheelchair
 - Chief Mary Ann Viverette, Gaithersburg Police Chief
 - Lynn BeBeau, President of COPs (Survivors)
 - Dr. Michele Ervin, ER doctor, Howard University Hospital
 - Patty Neilson, Columbine Teacher

- Rabbi Yoffie
- Sarah and Jim Brady, Handgun Control Inc.
- Marian Wright Edelman, Children's Defense Fund

Keynote

- 1:24 ~ 1:25** Off-stage introduction of Anna Quindlen
- 1:26 ~ 1:28** Anna Quindlen delivers brief remarks
- 1:29 ~ 1:34** Rosie Presents 2 Apple Pie and 2 Time Out Chair Awards before introducing Maryland Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Rep. Bobby Rush and Rep. Carolyn McCarthy. Rosie will also give updates from events across the country at this time)
- 1:35 ~ 1:41** Maryland Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
Rep. Bobby Rush
Rep. Carolyn McCarthy
- 1:42 ~ 1:43** Rosie introduces Sescily Coney, fourth grader from Stop the Violence
- 1:44 ~ 1:46** Sescily Coney speaks
- 1:47 ~ 1:48** Rosie introduces keynote speaker Dr. Antonia Novello
- 1:49 ~ 1:57** Dr. Novello delivers remarks
- 1:58 ~ 1:59** Off-stage introduction of Rosanne Cash who introduces Emmy Lou Harris
- 2:00 ~ 2:05** Emmy Lou Harris performs one song
- 2:06 ~ 2:07** Off-stage introduction of Julie Cypher
- 2:08 ~ 2:10** Julie Cypher speaks and introduces Melissa Ethridge
- 2:11 ~ 2:16** Melissa Ethridge performs one song

Turning Message into Action

- 2:17 ~ 2:18** Rosie Introduces Courtney Love
- 2:19 ~ 2:21** Brief remarks by Courtney Love
- 2:22 ~ 2:23** Off-stage introduction of Susan Sarandon

- 2:24 ~ 2:26** Susan Sarandon acknowledges other non-speaking celebrities (Suzanne Douglas, Patty Smyth, Phoebe Snow, Taffi, Bette Midler, Carolyn Ray, Linda Carter) Talks about her commitment, and encourages action on the issue
- 2:27 ~ 2:28** Rosie reiterates licensing and registration, holding leaders accountable, "what else can you do?" Introduces Moms who are putting their grief into action. Representatives of Sponsoring Organizations.
- 2:29 ~ 2:35** Mary Leigh Blek, Bell Campaign
Carole Price, PAX
Elizabeth Wright, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
- 2:36 ~ 2:37** Rosie introduces Barbara Lee
- 2:38 ~ 2:40** Barbara Lee will speak on the origin of Mother's Day and the call to the women present to continue the legacy.
- 2:41 ~ 2:42** Off-stage introduction of Reese Witherspoon
- 2:43 ~ 2:44** Reese Witherspoon to introduce youth activists:
- 2:45 ~ 2:49** Youth Activists Speak
- David Winkler, PAX Students Co-Chair
 - Bobby Brown: 17-year-old in wheelchair, with Students Pledge Against Gun Violence

Conclusion and Finale

- 2:50 ~ 3:00** Rosie brings up groups of moms who helped organize the event (state coordinators, Donna, lead donors) to big round of applause / Gives final 2 Apple Pie and 2 Time Out Chair Awards.

All speakers and talent then join Rosie and moms on stage for finale. (Track of Ain't No Stoppin Us Now)

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MILLION MOM MARCH *The Steering Committee*

Donna Dees-Thomases, founder, Million Mom March

Donna Dees-Thomases took the first step of the Million Mom March last summer following a shooting at a daycare center in California. Within a week of the August 10th shooting, Thomases created a concept for a mother's march on Washington to urge Congress and other decision-makers to take common sense action to protect children from gun violence. A mother herself, she felt she could no longer sit back while kids were dying every day.

Thomases is a part-time public relations consultant to CBS Entertainment, assigned to the *Late Show with David Letterman* since November 1995. Before that, she worked as associate director of communications for CBS News assigned to the *CBS Evening News With Dan Rather* for seven years.

Thomases worked on Capitol Hill as assistant press secretary to U.S. Sen. Russell Long after receiving an undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University in 1979. She also holds a Master's degree from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

A native of Louisiana, Thomases resides in New Jersey with her family. She is the mother of two girls, Lili and Phoebe, and is the stepmother of David, Danny and Greg. This is her first foray into activism.

THE BELL CAMPAIGN

The Bell Campaign is a victim-led, grassroots organization committed to preventing gun death and injury and supporting victims of gun trauma. It was founded in 1999 to give a unified voice to the victims of gun trauma and concerned community members. Like most Americans, The Bell Campaign supports laws to hold the gun industry accountable and place responsible limits on the availability of firearms, especially handguns.

The Bell Campaign is committed to providing compassionate support to gun victims from the time of their loss or injury through every step of the journey toward healing, and helps to channel grief into working for stronger gun laws. While the Bell Campaign extends this opportunity to everyone who needs victim resources, participation in advocacy is purely voluntary.

The founders of The Bell Campaign chose a symbol for this movement that could serve both as a memorial for lost loved ones and as a focal point for organizing and celebration. The bell will toll for all those killed and injured by guns and will peal to mark progress toward safer communities. The sound of the bell represents the unified voice of gun victims and the majority of Americans who support stronger gun laws.

The Bell Campaign's national office is located in San Francisco, CA.



MILLION MOM MARCH

P.O. Box 762
Washington D.C.
20044-0762
(888) 989-MOMS



Dear Friend:

On August 10th, I had a wake-up call. I was watching news about the Granada Hills day camp shooting. The images of terrified children being led in a line from the carnage that had just taken place inside were too much to bear. They looked bewildered, confused and scared to death.

I couldn't stop thinking of those kids mainly because I was just too afraid to think of the other ones -- the children shot and clinging to life. Those kids are about the same age as my own two. I felt ashamed. Ashamed because I've sat back while others battle the gun lobby to protect our children.

One week later, I applied for a permit to march on the Mall in Washington D.C. nine months later. As a mother, I know what can be created in this amount of time.

Please join the hundreds of mothers already involved to recruit mothers and others of all ages, races, religions, and political parties to mobilize for the "Million Mom March" on Mothers' Day, May 14th 2000. With thousands of mothers and others on the National Mall, we will put Congress on notice that common sense gun policy -- specifically licensing and registration -- is the will of the people.

For too long we have ignored the gun violence epidemic because it was always in somebody else's backyard. We cannot afford to ignore it any longer. Our children's lives are far too precious.

Thank you, fellow mother, for wanting to help.

Donna Dees-Thomases
Just One of a Million

MAY 14
WASHINGTON DC.
PROGRAM

PAX

"PAX (which means peace in Latin) was co-founded in 1997 by Talmage Cooley and Daniel Gross. The organization's mission is to create a powerful national movement to end gun violence, a movement that is positive, youthful and exciting. Through innovative media and communications initiatives, PAX intends to amplify the gun violence issue and empower every American to help create change. Applying an entrepreneurial organization model to its non-profit mission, PAX has quickly achieved success in bringing together many constituencies together which will be critical in rallying a successful national anti-gun violence movement, including many prominent individuals and organizations from the media, entertainment, policy, non-profit and corporate communities."

Talmage Cooley

In 1995, Talmage founded the Gun Violence Project, where he developed a comprehensive plan for using innovative media strategies to create an effective national anti-gun violence movement. His work has gained the support of a number of prominent individuals and organizations in the entertainment and media industries, as well as within the anti-gun violence movement. In 1997, Talmage co-founded PAX and the Gun Violence Project was merged into this new organization.

Previous to founding PAX, Talmage held positions for eight years in corporate finance and trading with Morgan Stanley and Dominion Bankshares, and then established a successful career in the creative arts as a writer, director and photographer. He received BA and MBA degrees from the University of Virginia.

Daniel Gross

Daniel was 30 and the youngest Partner at the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency when his younger brother, Matthew Gross, was critically wounded in the 1997 shooting atop the Empire State Building. Shortly thereafter, Daniel left his advertising career to co-found PAX. Today, recognized as one of the leading national spokespersons on the gun violence issue, he has made numerous appearances both nationally and locally on television, radio and in print and has received public praise from several members of Congress as well as President Clinton. Daniel's numerous awards and honors include a fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation, which recognized him as one of the next generation of America's leaders.

Daniel received B.S. degree in psychology and economics with honors from Tulane University in 1989 and currently lives in New York City with his wife Maria.

HANDGUN CONTROL, INC.

Handgun Control, Inc. was founded by a survivor of gun violence in 1974. Dr. Mark Borinsky began Handgun Control with the idea of rationalizing gun laws in the United States. In 1975, N.T. "Pete" Shields joined HCI, having lost a son to a serial killer. Sarah Brady, the current chair, joined in 1985, after her husband, Jim, was shot in the assassination attempt on President Reagan in 1981. These people, along with thousands of others, have joined together to press for more rational, common-sense gun laws. Handgun Control is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that lobbies in favor of reasonable gun regulations at local, state and national levels.

The Center to Prevent Handgun Violence was founded by Pete Shields as the educational and research affiliate of Handgun Control. Since 1983, the Center has worked closely to educate the general public about the issues surrounding gun violence in the United States.

The Center's Legal Action Project has been at the forefront of the recent movement to compel the gun industry to reform its sales and marketing practices. The Center's Education Department has developed several innovative programs that use health-care professionals, teachers and parents as mentors for at-risk youths. The Center continues to provide innovative educational and public health solutions to gun violence in our communities.

THE COALITION TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE

The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (CSGV) was founded in 1974 to combat the growing gun violence problem in the United States. CSGV is a unique coalition of more than forty religious, professional, labor, medical, educational and civic organizations.

The goal of CSGV is the orderly elimination of the private sale of handguns and assault weapons in the United States. CSGV seeks to ban handguns and assault weapons from importation, manufacture, sale and transfer by the general American public, with reasonable exceptions made for police, military, security personnel, gun clubs where guns are secured on club premises, gun dealers trading in antique and collectable firearms kept and sold in inoperable condition. Hunting weapons, such as shotguns and rifles would be unaffected by these bans, because they do not pose a large threat to the American public the way handguns and assault weapons do.

In addition to a ban, the Coalition supports intermediate steps to reducing gun violence. These steps include: limiting the availability of gun dealers licenses; increasing gun dealers license fees; restrictively licensing and registering gun owners; increasing the handgun and ammunition taxes to offset health care costs; imposing strict liability for gun manufacturers and dealers; regulating firearms as consumer products; banning Saturday Night Specials; and establishing a national one-handgun-a-month purchase limit.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON SALUTES THE MILLION MOM MARCH
FIGHT FOR COMMON SENSE GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION
May 13, 2000**

Today, in his weekly radio address, President Clinton will pay tribute to the hundreds of thousands of mothers nationwide who will celebrate Mother's Day and show their support for stronger gun laws by participating in the Million Mom March. The March, with a kick-off event at the White House with the President and the First Lady, will take place in Washington, D.C., and in nearly 70 communities across the nation. Over 150,000 mothers, fathers, children and other supporters are expected to converge on the National Mall for the event, making it the largest gun safety rally in history. The President will commend the mothers for leading an unprecedented grassroots movement to push for common-sense gun laws that will reduce the tragic toll of gun violence in our nation, and he will urge them to continue their fight for a safer America for their children beyond Sunday's March.

MAKING THE VOICES OF AMERICA'S MOMS HEARD ACROSS THE NATION. On Sunday, mothers and families from across the country will join in the Million Mom March, a grassroots effort to focus the nation's attention on the terrible costs of gun violence and on the steps that can be taken to save more lives. The March has been organized by a group of mothers from across America who have become outraged by the lack of action taken by Congress to protect their children from gun violence. Many of these mothers have suffered tragic personal losses because of gun violence; many others have been stirred to action by the fear that criminals and children can too easily get their hands on guns. Accordingly, a key focus of the March will be highlighting the fact that gunfire takes the lives of 12 children every day, and participants will urge Congress and policymakers nationwide to pass preventive measures that will keep guns out of the wrong hands.

URGING CONGRESS TO PUT THE SAFETY OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN FIRST. For ten months – despite numerous gun tragedies at schools, workplaces, and even places of worship all across America – the Congress has refused to move forward on common-sense gun measures. During that time, an estimated 20,000 Americans have lost their lives in gun violence. The President has urged Congress to send him strong gun safety measures without delay, including provisions to close the gun show loophole; mandate child safety locks with every handgun sold; ban high capacity ammunition clips; bar the most violent juveniles from possessing firearms as adults; and hold adults accountable if they allow children easy access to deadly guns. The President has also proposed funding for "smart gun" research and development grants and a state-based licensing proposal that requires all new handgun purchasers to be trained in the proper handling and storage of firearms. And as part of his comprehensive gun violence reduction strategy, the President has also called on Congress to fund the largest national gun enforcement initiative in history. This \$280 million initiative would fund 500 new ATF firearms agents and inspectors; over 1,000 new federal, state and local prosecutors; expanded gun tracing and ballistics testing; and programs modeled on Richmond's "Project Exile" and Boston's "Operation Ceasefire." Pointing out that states and communities across the country are moving ahead on common-sense gun measures, the President will urge Congress to stop its stall tactics and send him a gun safety bill he can sign now.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Akron, Ohio)

For Immediate Release

May 13, 2000

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT
ON THE MILLION MOM MARCH

Ohio Army National Guard Facility
North Canton, Ohio

10:35 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning everyone. I have just had the opportunity to meet this fine group of mothers who are leading Ohio's participation in Sunday's Million Mom March for common-sense gun safety laws. I want to thank them for their commitment, their determination and their courage. What they are doing is profoundly important.

Like millions of mothers all over America, they are outraged by the senseless acts of gun violence that continue to plague our communities, and they are determined to do something about it. Every day, nearly a dozen of our children are killed by guns. Twelve families suffer a wound that never heals. What is almost as senseless is the fact that Congress refuses to act on legislation that would prevent many of these shootings.

These moms will be marching in Washington and in more than 60 other cities on Mother's Day to say to Congress, enough is enough. It is unconscionable that over a year after Columbine, over ten months since they've had a chance to send me meaningful legislation, Congress still refuses to act.

Well, they can ignore my requests to move. They can ignore the evidence that common-sense prevention won't cost any law-abiding citizen a gun, but will save lives. But this Sunday, they will not be able to ignore the fact that the voices of more than 1 million moms across America will be demanding action.

The great sociologist Margaret Mead once said, "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." The women who are organizing this march are such a group of thoughtful citizens. They understand they have to be in this for the long haul. They understand that they have a lot of work to do.

But the evidence is on their side. The arguments are with them. And the power is on the other side. The whole story of America is the story of bringing down

established walls of power in the face of argument and evidence, and passionate commitment to liberty and to the dignity of individuals. That's what the Million Mom March represents. I'm honored to be here with them today, and again, I thank them for what they will be doing in Ohio.

Thank you.

Q Mr. President, do you think that the march will have the kind of impact that will break this logjam and get some gun control legislation through this Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: The honest answer to that is, I don't know. But I think it will have a seminal impact in the nature of this debate, because for a very long time now, large majorities of the American people have been for common-sense prevention legislation that has nothing to do with infringing on the right to keep arms, to bear arms, to hunt, to sports shoot, to keep weapons in self-defense, but has everything to do with keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and children. Notwithstanding the fact that lopsided majorities of our people favor these specific measures, they don't pass because of the intensity, power and wealth of the organized opposition to it.

So I think what these folks are saying is, you know, we want to save more lives. We're not trying to take anything away from what those people legally have who disagree with us. But we don't intend to let them take away our chance for prevention and safety anymore. And that is the beginning of the shift in the balance of forces in our society. That's how change always occurs.

So if they stay at this, they will prevail, because the evidence is on their side, the human element is on their side, and because they're not trying to take anything away from the other people. All they're trying to do is to protect our society from criminal acts and from avoidable accidents.

There are lives at stake. I think they will prevail. I hope they will prevail this year. I hope we will be able to prevail upon the leaders of the conference to meet and work again. But even if they don't win this battle, they'll win over the long run, because they are galvanizing public opinion around specific reforms that will make America a better place, and will give a lot of kids their lives.

Q Mr. President, a \$300,000 grant was given out to Smith and Wesson to do research on smart gun technology. Aren't some folks who see that as a pay-off to that company for signing -- What do you see as the status of that --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think first of all, Smith and Wesson did a good thing in making this agreement. And I think it's very -- if you look at what they, what did they agree to do? They agreed to attach child safety locks; they agreed to make internal child safety lock mechanisms on their guns as soon as they could do so technologically, which could not be dismantled by the kids; and to work on smart gun technology, which would enable guns to be fired only by the adults who lawfully own them.

They agreed to -- this is perhaps most important in the short-run -- they agreed to change the way they market and distribute their guns to avoid that relatively small number of dealers who sell a very high percentage of the guns that go to people who use them in crimes. Now, I would think that that would have been well-received by everybody. But, instead, the other gun manufacturers and their allies have subjected Smith & Wesson to withering, withering criticism.

But the answer to your question is, no, I don't think it'll be seen as a pay-off, because it's nowhere near as much money as it will cost them, given the reaction of the rest of the gun industry to what they're trying to do. And we have to have someone in the industry help us with this research; just by the nature of it, it has to be done. And I can assure you, there was never any quid pro quo or discussion of it. This all came up later. We need to have some allies in the gun industry who really do believe that prevention is an important part of a safe future for America.

And I hope that Smith & Wesson will keep all the components of the agreement they made. They have certainly paid an enormous price for doing it. I mean, it's truly been breathtaking to see the reaction against them by the other gun manufacturers and their allies.

Yes, sir?

Q Mr. President, is there room for any compromise in this legislation? And if so, in what area?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let me give you an example of what I -- what we've got before the Congress right now, I think we can work out language on the child trigger locks. I would hope that we could get a big majority for banning the import of large-capacity ammunition clips. Surely there is not a constituency for that. There has been absolutely no disruption whatever from our banning of assault weapons. But if you let them import these large capacity ammunition clips, then you can modify existing guns here and turn them into assault weapons.

The hang-up -- and this is interesting to me -- the hang-up is that the NRA is basically opposed to doing the background checks at gun shows unless they're Insta-checks. Now, Ohio is a big state, with a lot of large cities spread across the state, and then an awful lot of small towns and rural areas. Their argument is, a lot of these gun shows are held on the weekend -- you know, if somebody comes in and wants to buy a gun, it's a real hassle to wait three days for the background checks. Is there a way to work this out?

Well, here's my theory about it. Everybody who clears the Insta-check, let them buy the gun. Seventy percent of the people clear the Insta-check in a couple of minutes; 90-plus percent within a day, same day as the gun show occurs. But of the less than 10 percent who don't clear it, their rejection rate, because of a problem in their

background -- principally, a criminal problem -- is 20 times higher than the 90 percent of the people that do clear.

So what we've been unwilling to do so far is to say if we don't clear -- see, what the NRA position is, if they don't clear in a day, we ought to give that last 9 percent or 8 percent or however many -- they ought to be able to take the guns home, even if they don't clear within a day. And my position is, why would we defend a population that's less than 10 percent of the total, that's more than 20 times likely to have committed a crime and be ineligible to get a gun, than the rest of the 90 percent?

So it looks to me like we could work an agreement that covers the rest of the 90 percent, and then on the 9 percent, it seems to me it's quite important to do that. And -- you know, let me tell you, that would -- even that is a compromise from what would be the optimal, and here's why. Suppose a custody order, or a stop order, is listed in a domestic dispute that's very violent, on a Friday afternoon. It can't possibly be in anybody's computer yet. If you let the Insta-check control that, then a lot of people will get cleared -- not a lot, but a small number that could be violent -- could be cleared anyway.

So our people, representing our position through Mr. Conyers from Michigan, have, I think, made quite a reasonable proposal. And I'm hoping that we'll keep working on it. I think if we just had to work it out in the House, we could probably do it. But right now, the Senate -- where, ironically, where we passed a stronger bill -- but Senator Hatch and the Senate conferees are essentially refusing to go forward with us on this.

So -- I didn't mean to give you too long and detailed an answer, but you need to know that what's so sad about this is I think we could do the child trigger locks; I think we could do the assault weapons ban. And I think -- it seems unbelievable to me that we would be hung up here on this background check at the gun shows in a way that affects less than 10 percent of the gun buyers, but they're 20 times more likely to have a problem in their background. It's very important that everybody understand that. If we could just get focused on that, I can't believe we couldn't figure out a way to work this out.

Now, there's much bigger opposition to what -- the larger legislative goals of the Million Mom March, but I think they're absolutely right. As you know, I favor -- for example, I think if somebody buys a handgun they ought to get a license, like a car license. It ought to be a photo ID license. It ought to show that they passed a background check, and that they passed a gun safety check -- just like you do when you get a car. That's what I think.

So I'd like to see the short-term goals resolved this year and I want them to keep on pushing, because there is so much we can do. We can make America the safest big country in the world and still have people out there hunting and sports shooting, even having weapons for protection if they thought they needed them in their homes. But we can't do it without more prevention.

Q Mr. President, what do you think of polls which suggest that support for gun restrictions are wavering among men, and they tend to be more sympathetic to --

THE PRESIDENT: If you read -- let me just say this. First, I agree with that. But I think we've got to put it into some perspective.

If you go back and look at the data from the Pew research survey, they do show that men, particularly men over 55, have been affected by the claims of the NRA and the advertising that the rights of legitimate gun owners are threatened. But they also show that a majority, a significant majority of the people, still respond that we need further gun control measures.

The real problem is whether you talk in general terms about gun control, or whether you talk in specific terms about closing the gun show loophole, banning large-capacity ammunition clips, imposing child trigger locks, or licensing gun owners -- if you give people the specifics, there are still 70 percent of the people with us, maybe more.

But the labeling fears -- because it scares people. I said the other day to our staff, I said, this is weird. That's why the people who oppose our position, they always want to talk about more gun control, and imply that the rights of hunters and sports people are threatened. And they use that label.

But, you know, when we talk about the speed limits on automobiles, or people having to get a license to drive their cars, or laws that require you to use your seat belts or put in the right kind of baskets, child safety restraint seats - you know, all those things are laws. You want to drive a car, and you want to put your child in the car? They're all laws. Nobody talks about car control. And you have a constitutional right to travel, too, you know. The Supreme Court says you've got a constitutional right to travel. No one says car control is threatening our constitutional right to travel.

So I think that what we should do is, instead of having these label wars, we should calm down, lower the rhetoric and say, what is it that we have proposed? What is it that they are advocating? Would it make us safer? Would it prevent more crimes and more accidental deaths, and injuries? Does it infringe the Constitution?

My answer is, look at the facts of what they're advocating. Would it make us a safer country? Absolutely. Would it infringe the Constitution? Absolutely not. Therefore, we ought to do it. I think we just calm this down and look at the facts, we'll prevail.

Thank you very much.
END 10:50 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Akron, Ohio)

Embargoed For Release
Until 10:06 A.M. EDT
Saturday, May 13, 2000

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

Ohio Army/National Guard Facility
Akron, Ohio

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This weekend, Americans celebrate the first Mother's Day of the 21st century. For most of us, it's a happy occasion, a chance to thank the women who gave us life, cared for us as children, nurtured us into adulthood.

But for thousands of mothers and fathers whose children have been killed by gun fire, tomorrow will be a day of sad memories. Every day in America, nearly a dozen children are killed by guns and 12 families receive a wound that never heals. And every day in America millions of moms and dads watch their children walk out the door in the morning and wonder if they'll come home safe that night.

That's why the First Lady and I are giving our strong support to tomorrow's Million Mom March. Tens of thousands of mothers and others are marching in Washington and more than 60 other cities across our nation. They're saying, enough is enough. Congress must pass common-sense gun legislation to protect our children without constraining the rights of legitimate gun owners.

Many of the organizers have lost children of their own and other loved ones to gun fire. This past week, I met with some of them at the White House and heard their stories: a son shot while playing with neighbors in his own backyard in New York; a teenager shot at his front door by party crashers in Virginia; a daughter shot with four others by classmates at her Arkansas middle school; a young man shot by Illinois gang members who expected, just like on television, that he would get up and walk away.

These moms are finding in their fear and loss the strength to send a wake-up call across America. As a father, I was heartbroken by their stories. As an American citizen, I was inspired. They're saying gun violence touches us all, wherever we live, whatever the color of our skin, whether or not we have children. They remind us that the loss of a child is a loss for us all. And they know we have the power to do something about it.

We do have the power to teach our children the right values, to build strong communities, to crack down on those who use guns to commit crimes. But the key to our success in this, as in so many areas, has got to be more prevention, doing more to keep guns out of the hands of children and criminals in the first place. There is no reason why we can't do that.

The Million Mom March is calling on Congress to act on the common-sense gun legislation that has been before it for 10 months now. The bill wouldn't take away anybody's gun or make anyone miss a day during the hunting season. What it would do is to close the loophole that lets anyone buy a gun at a gun show without a background check. It would require child safety locks with all new handguns. And it would ban the import of large capacity ammunition clips, which nobody is using for sport or self-defense, and which makes a mockery of our assault weapons ban.

I think the Million Mom March is already a success, before anyone takes the first step. These people are helping to lead a grassroots effort that has already put stronger laws in place in states like California, Massachusetts and Maryland. They're letting the gun lobby know it is no match for America's moms. But our nationwide fight won't be over tomorrow, no matter how many march. We have so much work still to do.

Throughout our entire history as a nation every movement for social progress, every step toward safety and justice for all has been fueled by the energy and effort of ordinary citizens. The Million Mom March is the latest successor to that great American tradition. If the moms stick with it, they will succeed, they will make America a safer, more humane nation. Helping to keep guns out of the wrong hands is a Mother's Day gift we can all be proud of.

Happy Mother's Day and thanks for listening.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 12, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN INTERVIEW WITH CHARLIE GIBSON AND DIANE SAWYER
OF GOOD MORNING AMERICA
LIVE AT THE WHITE HOUSE: MOMS AND GUNS

The Oval Office

7:00 A.M. EDT

MR. GIBSON: This morning we are live from the White House, where we will bring together the President and some representatives of the army of moms who will converge on Washington this weekend to flex their muscles and join the Million Mom March against gun violence.

Good morning, America. We begin our broadcast this morning in the Oval Office of the White House.

MS. SAWYER: And it is Friday, May 12, 2000. Welcome to all of you. We're grateful to the President for the loan of the office this morning.

And as you've been saying, Charlie, the rumbling sound being heard out there, according to a lot of women is the sound of moms packing bags, boarding buses by the tens of thousands to come to Washington, they say not for symbolism, but for action. And specifically what these women want -- I'll run through the list of four main things -- they think that people who own guns should be licensed, just like car owners are. They want the guns registered. They also want trigger locks, safety locks on all guns. They say there should be background checks, even at gun shows, and they want longer waiting periods before the purchases of guns.

So, this morning, our questions are, are these the right things, and will they work?

MR. GIBSON: If you're a student of this broadcast, you know about a year ago we were here and we brought a number of students in to talk about gun violence, with the President and Mrs. Clinton. We have come back with some of the moms who will march on Sunday, and we've also brought in some mothers who feel those who will march on Sunday are simply wrong. And they're actually going to have a counter-march, and some of them are here

as well.

MS. SAWYER: And so we also want to explore, are there consensus issues, things we can all agree can and should be done. Everyone certainly agrees there's a problem. Just yesterday we heard about Prairie Grove, Arkansas, where a 7th grader was believed to be on his way to school with a 12-gauge shotgun, got in a shootout with the police.

MR. GIBSON: We are here in the Oval Office with the President, who is joining us this morning. It's nice to have -- nice to be here. I shouldn't say nice to have you with us, since it's your office. Mr. President, good to see you again.

THE PRESIDENT: Good to see you.

MR. GIBSON: Diane is going to go over with the mothers and we understand you will join us in there in a few moments. But we'd like to talk a little bit first.

It as a year ago, Mr. President, that we were here with you with the students talking about gun violence. And you talked to me then about the hopes that you had for new gun control legislation. It hasn't happened. What went wrong?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, nothing went wrong. We passed legislation in the Senate -- Vice President Gore cast the tie-breaking vote to require child safety locks, to ban the importation of large capacity ammunition clips, which would make our assault weapons ban much more effective, and to require background checks when handguns are bought at gun shows and urban flea markets, just as they are now at gun stores.

It passed in the Senate; it didn't pass in the House. And, frankly, I think it was because of the intense lobbying effort against it and the longstanding ability of the NRA to influence congressman. I think that that was a big part of it.

I think, also, the label "gun control" is not nearly as effective as the specific safety measures. I mean, if I said to you, let's take these seatbelts out of cars and repeal the speed limits and repeal the requirement that drivers get licenses because it's "car control," you might be against it, too. When you talk about the specifics, do they make sense or not, do they work or not, the answer is, yes.

Frankly, I still don't understand why anybody would be against these things. And the evidence is clear that it works.

MR. GIBSON: But the Congress is jammed up. I've got here a pile of all the gun legislation that's been proposed in the past year, since we were here before, and none of it has passed. By my count, we have more states rejecting new gun control legislation than have passed it. We have 15 states that

have passed prohibitions on cities suing gun manufacturers. That hardly seems like progress.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, I think you have to look at the fact that the states, which our founding fathers thought would be the laboratories of democracy, have seen some progress. If you look at what Maryland and California and Massachusetts have done -- Maryland particularly is interesting because it is not what you would think of a socially or culturally liberal state, and people from very difficult districts passed some very tough child safety legislation.

I think that there has been some movement at the state level. In Colorado, a conservative Republican governor proposed closing the gun show loophole, couldn't pass it through the legislature, and they're going to put it on the ballot. It will be interesting to see what the people of Colorado do.

I think that as a practical matter, until the public demonstrates its will on this, there may not be more substantive progress. The people are going to have to decide what they believe the right approach is.

MR. GIBSON: When we were here a year ago, you gave me a rather stern talking-to about the political realities on the issue of gun control. Isn't it fair to say that the political realities right now are that nothing is going to happen for this year, while people wait to see the results of the November election?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not sure. That is one possible outcome. It may be the more likely outcome. But keep in mind, you've still got bills that have passed the House and the Senate. Essentially what's happened is, though, that this is the part about Washington that drives people crazy -- we've got a version of this bill that passed the House, a version of this bill that the Senate, and the conferees are supposed to get together, both parties, both Houses, come up with a bill and send it to me; I sign it or veto it, and then they override the veto or they don't if I veto it. That's the way the system is supposed to work.

As a practical matter, what happens is they're just not meeting, and because they don't want to report out a bill that, again, they can't label as "gun control," but it will have specifics, and people either like it or not, and it will either pass or not. That's what's frustrating. It's just been stalled. And I think the fact that what's really important about it is closing a loophole in a background check law that has plainly worked to save lives in America, closing a loophole in an assault weapons ban that the American people overwhelmingly support, and putting in child trigger locks -- those are the three main elements -- it's unconscionable that it hasn't been voted out.

MR. GIBSON: As a practical matter, doesn't this

administration have something of a stake in Sunday's march, hoping that some mothers can do politically what Columbine, what a pre-school shooting out in California, what a six-year-old shooting another six-year-old didn't do, which is to create a gun control lobby as strong as the pro-gun lobby?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think, as a practical matter, what we really have is hoping that these mothers will create a sense of awareness in America that this is not a debate framed the way the NRA has debated, gun control or not, implying that this is the beginning of a slippery slope to take people's guns away, no matter how law-abiding they are, and that it's about very specific, very concrete measures of prevention -- to reduce the likelihood of guns falling into the hands of children and criminals. That's what this is about.

MR. GIBSON: You have made this very much a priority in this administration. Does it surprise you when you see the latest polls, Gallup Poll just out recently, indicating that a plurality of this country actually thinks that Governor Bush would be stronger on gun control and better equipped to handle the issue than the Vice President?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because I think the public doesn't have the information. I don't think there's any -- I think if you gave -- did the Gallup Poll give the public a test about whether -- which candidate was for the following specific measures? I think people form general impressions, and the Republicans, keep in mind, until our administration came in, because of their tough rhetoric and their theory that the answer to every crime was just to put more people in jail and keep them there longer, and they talked about it like that -- they had the overwhelming advantage on all crime-related issues.

But it's not like there's no evidence here. I mean, crime has come down seven years in a row -- eight years in a row, now. This is the eighth year that crime is coming down. Partly it's due to the improved economy, but partly it's due to the fact that we put 100,000 police on the street, that we passed the Brady Bill, that we passed the assault weapons, that we increased enforcement as well.

No one can dispute the evidence. And so what I think there is, when the campaign really starts in earnest, we need to make sure that voters have all the evidence, and then we'll see what they say.

MR. GIBSON: Don't you to some extent make the NRA's case when you say that, though? They say, enforce existing laws. You're not doing enough of enforcing existing laws. And yet you've got murder down 25 percent since '93; gun crime down 35 percent since '92; violent crime overall down 27 percent. That's done with a good economy, better policing, and not necessarily such stronger gun control laws.

THE PRESIDENT: That includes the Brady Bill, the assault weapons ban, a ban on cop-killer bullets. They were against all those things. When we passed the Brady Bill -- keep in mind, the Brady law, which requires the background checks, was vetoed in the previous administration of President Bush. We passed it again and I signed it. And what did they say? The same crowd here who is against closing the gun show loophole, what did they say then? Then they said, because they were making a different argument, because they're against all prevention measures, they said then, oh, this Brady law won't make any difference because criminals do not buy guns at gun stores, they buy guns at these gun shows or flea markets, or out of the back of pickup trucks on streets. It won't make any difference.

Okay, now, it's 2000, and since we passed the Brady Bill, over 500,000 felons, fugitives, and stalkers have been unable to get handguns. There is no question that they used gun stores and no question that the Brady Bill made a difference, and no question it would be even better if all handgun sales were subject to background checks, including the ones at gun shows.

Now, so we're not arguing about that. If it's a prevention measure designed to keep more guns out of the hands of criminals, they're against it. If it's punishment for any kind of gun violation, they're for it. They say that this is the one area of American life where there must be no prevention, and where people who own guns must be subject to no reasonable efforts to construct a system of prevention.

This is not gun control in the sense that we're taking people's guns away from them, or making the decision that they'd be safer or better off to have guns, or that they want to engage in a wide range of lawful activities. And that's really -- they've been working this for a long time and they're good at it. They just say the same things over and over again.

But why were they against this banning cop-killer bullets? Why were they against the Brady Bill in the first place? Why were they against the assault weapons ban? What's wrong with banning the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips? Let's get out of the name-calling and labeling and get right down to specifics -- is this going to reduce crime, or not, in America? Is it going to make Americans safer? I think it is.

MR. GIBSON: Let's get to the specifics of why the mothers are here to march. If you'd join us across the hall, we've got a number of mothers there anxious to talk to you.

Diane, let me go to you over in the Roosevelt Room.

MS. SAWYER: That's right, Charlie. Sitting in this room, I've noticed a lot of women nodding heads and shaking heads and bursting to ask questions. I'll give you a preview -- just

one question, what's it going to be?

MS. HALPIN: I'd like to know why it's been held up in Congress as long as it has been held up in Congress.

MS. SAWYER: All right. We're going to come back after we take a break for your news and headlines and local weather just ahead, and hear what all of these women, with their hearts filled -- and believe me, some of them have stories that will stop your heart, as well -- have to say to the President, just ahead.

* * *

MS. SAWYER: Mr. President, as you know, the women in this room represent many sides of the issue. Some of them are here from the Second Amendment Sisters, the counter-demonstration to the Million Mom March. Also in this room we have many stories of personal terror, some of heartbreak, and a lot of moms who say they want to try to turn heartbreak into purpose, tears into something that matters.

So I'm going to start again if I could, sir, with Linda Halpin, who had that first question and wants to tell you about her son and why her question matters so much to her.

MS. HALPIN: Good morning, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

MS. HALPIN: My son was killed last Mother's Day. He was shot in the head, and of course, was pronounced brain-dead. When he lie in the hospital room I promised I would do something about it. So I'll speak on behalf of my son, Louis.

Mr. President, it's been so long that so many of these laws are being held up, and I understand that they're being held up in Congress. I understand that they've been sitting there. And in my heart I feel that if something had been done maybe a year ago, my son may have been alive. I need to know from you, Mr. President, I need to know and I need an answer today, what are you going to do about this in your remaining days in office? I don't want to know what has been done or what could be done, I want to know what you're going to do for my son, Louis.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, the short answer is I'm going to do everything I can. In our country's history, as far as I know, no administration before ours has taken any kind of systematic, aggressive approach to this, except after Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy were killed in 1968, President Johnson tried to do something. He tried to pass -- he did pass a very weak background check law, not as strong as he wanted, and he tried to pass licensing. And since then, until we came in and began with the Brady Bill and the assault weapons ban, no one had

done anything.

I have done as many townhall meetings as I could; I have lobbied the Congress as hard as I could; I've also taken a lot of executive action to strengthen the enforcement of the laws and to give us some options we didn't have before. But the truth is, in the United States, we have, by far, the highest gun death rate of any advanced country in the world, and by far, the highest accidental gun rate in the world, because we have taken the position that any sort of sensible prevention measures here should not be passed -- I say, we, as a people. And I think that's the wrong position.

So I've tried to change what would happen. I thought surely after Columbine, we would get some action. The Senate passed, 51-50, the Vice President passed the tie-breaking vote, I think a good bill that would aggressively move us forward. But there are things we can do at the executive level, without congressional action, to continue to increase the effectiveness of the enforcement of the laws we have. And we're doing that.

But we don't have authority to apply, for example, background checks on people that buy guns at gun shows or at flea markets. We have an assault weapons ban, but people can import large-capacity ammunition clips and then adjust guns here and turn them into assault weapons. We have a few states that require safety locks on guns for kids -- that's one thing that not many people talk about, but let me just say, the accidental rate of death from guns of children under 15 in the United States is nine times higher than the accidental rate in the other countries combined.

So I am doing everything I can do. I am not a dictator. The Congress believes -- I'll just tell you the truth -- the Congress believes -- as Congresswoman McCarthy, she's paid a pretty high price for this -- they believe that if they vote with the NRA they will not be defeated. They believe if they vote with you they may be defeated.

This is not complicated. You have to understand, they believe that as long -- you know when Charlie Rose asked me about the poll -- I mean Charlie Gibson asked me about the poll -- Charlie Rose normally asks me about other things -- asked me about the poll in there. You have to understand what they believe. They believe that as long as they can turn it into a gun control, gun control, gun control debate, and stay away from the specifics, they can scare a bunch of guys into thinking that they're going to lose their guns, and that more people will vote against them for voting for gun control measures if it's called that instead of the specifics than vote for it.

Now, look, I know you're heartbroken. I'm doing everything I can. But let me remind you that Mr. LaPierre, the representative of the NRA, said that I wanted people to die so I

could make an issue out of this. That's what he said. Now, I can only tell you that I wake up every day thinking about this. I am heartbroken about this. And I am frustrated. Because they do well if they can turn this into a gun control battle. We do well when we turn this into a specific battle.

The thing that the mothers coming here will do, I hope, is to make this a voting issue. But if it's not, they're going to keep winning. And you just have to realize that.

MR. GIBSON: Mr. President, I want to interrupt you for just a second. We're supposed to take a commercial break here at this point, but we're going to keep going. And we just want to tell our local stations we want to keep going -- because you want to follow up, I know.

MS. HALPIN: Mr. President, I understand you are frustrated and that you're doing the best that you can, but I want to know what are you going to do in your remaining days of office. I do not want another mother to see -- to look at what I'm looking at -- a death certificate for a boy at the age of 22 years old, gunshot perforating the brain, as my son was killed. I don't want to see these -- I don't want to see this anymore. I'm so fed up with what has been going on, with the school shootings -- Columbine, yes, I understand what happened there. My son sat with me and cried with me for the families. Little did he know he'd be dead 10 days later with the same affliction.

Mr. President, again I'm going to repeat it. I need to know, what are you going to do in your remaining days of office. I need accountability for my son's death. I need to -- not to blame it on someone, but someone, somebody has to be held accountable.

THE PRESIDENT: Where are you from?

MS. HALPIN: I'm from New York, sir. Howard Beach.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm going to do my best to pass this legislation, and I'm going to do my best to make sure that we're enforcing the existing laws, and I'm going to do my best to find more people like you to tell your stories in the hope that more people in the Congress will be emboldened to do what I believe a majority of them think is the right thing to do.

This has been a big issue with me, and I have been very frustrated in my inability to get more done. We did -- we got the Brady Bill and the assault weapons ban through. I just want to tell you this. This is a very -- you just need to know this. We have some people on the other side of this issue today, so I want to compliment them.

I got the first Congress I had to pass the Brady Bill and the assault weapons ban, and at least a dozen of them, maybe

as many as 20 of them in the House lost their seats because they did that, trying to help people like you. Because the NRA beat their brains out, because they went home to their districts and told people they were going to take their guns away.

Now, seven years later, none of them have lost their guns and we've got a safer America. And so now they're fighting the new list of prevention measures. But you need to know what happened.

I know this hurts you. And I'm telling you, we're -- ask Congresswoman McCarthy -- we've been up here fighting this for all these years, and it is very, very frustrating.

MS. HALPIN: It won't bring our children back.

THE PRESIDENT: It won't bring your children back. But I'll tell you what will save more children, is if they believe people like you will mobilize other people to change the voting behavior of the American public. That is what will bring -- applause.) That's the truth.

I know this sounds so cruel in the face of your human loss. You have to understand how things work here. Look, I'm not running for anything. I'm doing what I think is right. I have taken on these facts; I have done everything I know to do. And you heard what Charlie said -- gun violence is down 30 percent -- gun crime -- since I took office, 35 percent. The crime rate is down, actually now, to about a 27-year low. The murder rate is down to a 30-year low.

We are making it better. But this is still way too dangerous a country because we take the position that when it comes to these issues, this is the only area of our national life where we will not have prevention. Now, that's really what -- that is the truth. And it breaks my heart, too.

MS. SAWYER: I want to ask you about something in the paper this morning -- I'll get it -- in the paper this morning, George W. Bush has announced that he's going to distribute free trigger locks for guns around the country, and that he pledges to create a national program to do this if he's elected President. Now, that's something, presumably, that could happen immediately, right away. Is it a good idea, and would you support it and do it, too?

THE PRESIDENT: It's a good idea, but why is he doing that?

MS. HALPIN: And why now?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, wait -- yes, that's good -- that's also good. Why now? Because he's running for President. That's okay, that's what elections are for. People get better

ideas all the time. We can't hold people -- anybody who wants to join and start doing things should be complimented. So that's fine.

But I think you have to understand what's going on here. There was a report in the newspaper last week that a lobbyist for the NRA said they would have an office in the White House if Governor Bush as elected. And they were I think the first or second biggest contributor to the annual Republican Party Gala last week. So he wants to move away from that image, he wants people not to think that he won't do anything -- that basically the NRA will control policy on this -- which they will if he wins.

And if he comes out and gives away gun trigger locks, then he doesn't have to explain why we're still importing large-capacity ammunition clips and why he doesn't want to close the gun show loophole.

I know you have people here from Texas who believe that their concealed weapons law is very effective. I know that -- and we could talk about that if you like. But the truth is that everybody is going to want to look like they're doing something, but the most effective measures are opposed by most of the people in the Republican Party. I wish that weren't true. We do have some support from them, and I thank those who are supporting us.

MS. SAWYER: You've talked about the NRA, and as we've said, we have some -- some of the women here this morning, we want to make sure we hear their views, too, who are from the Second Amendment Sisters counter-march. Specifically on this question of a concealed weapon, I want to ask Suzanna Hupp to stand by here. And we're going to see a little taped piece, because she is really of the view that the fact that she couldn't have a concealed weapon may have cost the lives of some people she loves. And let's take a look at a tape.

(Technical difficulties.) We may have had the wrong tape coming up here.

MR. GIBSON: Well, Suzanna, where are you? Why don't you give me a basic -- of what happened in that restaurant.

MS. HUPP: Well, to put it in a nutshell, back in '91, at that point in time in Texas we were not allowed to carry concealed. I carried concealed illegally for many years, at the advice of an assistant DA friend of mine -- of an very urban area. Shortly before that, I quit carrying concealed because I was worried about losing my license to practice chiropractic.

That particular day a guy drove his truck through the window of a restaurant. To make a long story short, 23 people were killed. It was a very methodical killing, very execution-style killing --

THE PRESIDENT: I remember that.

MS. HUPP: My parents were two of those people. I will tell you that the only thing, the only thing, that the gun laws did was to prevent me from being able to protect myself and my family. That's it, that's the only thing they did.

MR. GIBSON: And you are now in the statehouse of Texas?

MS. HUPP: Yes, sir, I am.

MR. GIBSON: And there is now a concealed weapons law in the state of Texas.

MS. HUPP: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. First of all, let's concede something. She might be right about this. That is, on this particular incidence, if there had been someone in that restaurant who knew how to use a gun and was lawfully carrying it -- for example, an off-duty police officer or somebody -- or in a state with a concealed weapon law, someone who was properly trained and had it, maybe they could have stopped this horrible incident.

There is no law that covers every set of facts. However, what the truth is in most instances is, is that a lot of people have guns who don't know how to use them, and the accidental death rate in America is -- again I will say this -- nine times higher than that in the next 25 biggest countries combined. So it's a question of what makes you safest overall.

But my view of the concealed weapons law is, if a state wants to have one, what do people have to prove to carry a concealed weapon; how well have they been trained; how likely are they to avoid doing something crazy, so that they're only used in cases like this.

But the second thing is, whether you've got a concealed weapons law or not should have nothing to do with whether you close the loophole in the background check, whether you ban the large-capacity ammunition clips, and whether you require child trigger locks, including those that are built into the guns, assuming they're feasible.

She may be right about this, about this example. But I don't think that example is an argument against our legislation.

MS. SAWYER: Mr. President, you talk about the rate of violence in this country, but the Second Amendment Sisters here have said that there is no evidence that there is a correlation between increased gun control laws, which tend to affect the

law-abiding population, and a decrease in violence -- specifically, in England, where you have highly restrictive gun control laws, there's an increase of violence right now. What correlation is there --

THE PRESIDENT: Wait, wait a minute -- an increase of violence from a very low base.

MS. SAWYER: From a low base.

THE PRESIDENT: From a low base. In America, I will say again -- forget about the crimes, just look at the accidental gun rate -- in America, the death rate of children under 15 from accidental gun violence is -- I will say again -- 9 times higher than that in the next 24 biggest industrial countries put together.

So we say, in order to avoid inconveniencing people who have firearms or might want to get firearms, we will not have sensible prevention measures, because it scares everybody because we'll call it gun control. Now, that's a decision we've made as a society.

Look, there is no perfect system. The level of violence will depend upon the kind of people you have in your society, the condition of the economy, the way the children are raised, the values of the society, the values of the community, the effectiveness of law enforcement -- there are many factors involved here. And there is no perfect system. But there is no question that if we want to become the safest big country on Earth, without impinging on our freedom, we will have to do more in the area of prevention.

MS. HOWARD: Excuse me, could I ask a question if it's all right?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

MS. SAWYER: And we should point out, you are Susan Howard.

MS. HOWARD: Yes, I am. I would like to ask this lady --

MS. SAWYER: Let's tell people, Susan, who you are, those who don't know you. You've seen her in the ads for the NRA --

MS. HOWARD: Yes, for the child safety. Was your son killed accidentally with a gun, or was it a crime?

MS. HALPIN: It was a crime.

MS. HOWARD: Mr. President, I really have to ask you

something. You just made the statement that just sent shivers up and down my spine. You said, let's forget the crimes and --

THE PRESIDENT: No --

MS. HOWARD: No, no, no, sir, excuse me --

THE PRESIDENT: This is the way the NRA operates.

MS. HOWARD: No, sir, it's not. No, sir --

THE PRESIDENT: All I did is -- I don't want to forget the crimes --

MS. HOWARD: No, sir, you said, let's forget the crime and talk about the accidents -- because there is nobody that --

THE PRESIDENT: You know that's not what I meant, to forget the crime, Ms. Howard.

MS. HOWARD: But that's what you said, Mr. President. And I guess this is --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what I -- I was making the prevention --

MS. HOWARD: No, sir, let me finish.

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

MS. HOWARD: Please may I finish, because you have a bully pulpit, and I know every single person here in this room, the majority of them, are really for you and they love you and they trust you and they believe you. But we are right now living in a country, sir, where our children -- it's not how many gun laws you can continue to pass, it's about my grandchildren, it's about their children, it's about your daughter and whether she ever has any children or not.

Bottom line, the issue is about are we ever, ever, ever, ever going to look at the children and say, that's the focus. Because right now what this is all about is the children have been pushed out of the side -- they do not exist right --

MR. GIBSON: Get to the question.

MS. HOWARD: No, what I'm saying is, if we -- you are the education President, am I correct? Are you the education President -- that is what you have built your --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's what the teachers said yesterday when they all came here.

MS. HOWARD: I agree, but I think that's what you built

your platform on. What is it about educating children and gun safety that you have a problem with?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing. Now, wait a minute. Charlie, I have to answer this. On many occasions -- not one, many occasions -- I have complimented, as President, in the face of all the criticism I've gotten from the NRA -- on many occasions I have complimented the NRA on the gun safety legislation -- efforts they've made, the gun safety education programs. I have talked about what they did when I was governor. I've also complimented them on some other things they did when I was governor to reduce violence -- but wait a minute, let me finish.

I think the laws should be more vigorously enforced. I have asked for more resources to do that. Gun enforcement is up since I've been President. But I've asked for resources to do more.

Look, here's my argument. Let me just be very careful here. I do not believe that America has done enough on the prevention side. And I do not believe this problem can be addressed solely by stiffer punishment, by education, and in the case of the Texas -- if a state wants to have a concealed weapons law. I believe we must do more to try to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and away from children in the first place. That's all I said. That's my only position. (Applause.)

But I think the NRA, the education programs, the gun safety education programs are good and would do a lot of good.

MR. GIBSON: Susan, let me address this. Marjorie Hardy is here --

MS. SAWYER: Marjorie Hardy -- she is a psychologist --

MR. GIBSON: -- and assistant professor who worked -- Marjorie, if I quote you correctly -- you worked with your children on education over and over again, correct?

MS. HARDY: That's correct --

MR. GIBSON: And you used those children as part of an experiment that we did on 20-20.

MS. SAWYER: -- which we did at 20-20. And we also had the Eddie Eagle education program come in. And we were talking with kids about how -- what you do when you see a gun in the room, specifically. And they all sat there and nodded, yes, they got it, you get an adult, you don't touch it, you don't touch it -- including Marjorie's son, Matthew, who had grown up with nothing but education against guns.

I'm going to roll the clip. And what happened with Marjorie's son was a traditional -- or typical with what happened

with the other kids, as well. And we found that the education, by and large, didn't work with this age kid. Here is Marjorie's son, Matthew --

THE PRESIDENT: How old is your son?

MS. SAWYER: He was age 4 at the time.

(Clip is shown.)

MS. SAWYER: And I want to point out, Marjorie, that the kids knew these were not toy guns. You could hear them saying, "this is a real gun" and reacting to the fact that it was a real gun. Anything you want to add?

MS. HARDY: I do. I actually would like to ask the NRA what evidence they have that their Eddie Eagle program is even effective. You have no empirical evidence that it's effective. Anecdotes, testimonials, that's not empirical evidence. A correlational study, that's not empirical evidence. That doesn't show us that your program works.

And I'm not against education, I think it's important. But to get on the grandstand and to say this is the answer, is wrong.

MS. HOWARD: Okay, in our ad, if you have seen it, is what it's all about is we are not saying we are the only one with the answer. What we are saying is education is an imperative; that it is the same thing if you took your child, I don't care how old they are, and you walk them out to a street corner, and you say to that child, look left and right before you cross the street; look at the light, look at the red light.

MS. SAWYER: -- I engage the President on this issue, if I can, this question of parental responsibility and parental role in general. If I can just move to that -- when you talk about everybody being responsible. The question really becomes, are there just too many guns out there for parents to be able to maintain control --

AUDIENCE: Yes.

MS. SAWYER: And what do you do about your neighbors. And I'm going to show you a tape, and then we're going to meet Lori Smith, because this is the story of what happened to her daughter, Shannon. Let's see if we have the tape.

(Technical difficulties.)

MS. SAWYER: I'm going to go to Lori and let you tell us what happened.

MS. SMITH: Well, on June 14th of last year, my

daughter was -- my 14-year-old was standing in the backyard, walking around, talking on the phone to one of her friends, and a bullet fell from the sky and hit her in the head and killed her instantly. The bullet came from a mile away, they believe, and we don't know who did it. We know the direction from, from our house. But in Phoenix, Arizona, people -- or in Maricopa County, people shoot guns all the time, every night, up in the air, in celebration or whatever, for whatever reasons. And it doesn't matter where they are -- they're in their backyards, on the canal banks. And these bullets are found everywhere. And, unfortunately, they hit my child and killed her.

MS. SAWYER: And random accidental shootings, as we know, take place by the thousands all the time. Mr. President, what about the guns out there?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, here's a case -- of course, that probably is illegal. And if it isn't, it should be.

MS. SMITH: It was only a misdemeanor two --

THE PRESIDENT: Did they ever find out who did it?

MS. SMITH: No. And we fought the Arizona State Legislature to elevate the penalty to a felony. We had great opposition from the NRA and the gun lobby -- even though they said, we won't oppose it, they attempted to amend it to the point where it was not going to be enforceable. But we were able, on April 3rd, the Governor did sign Shannon's Law into effect and elevated the penalty to a felony. But before that it was just a lowly misdemeanor, and people didn't care -- they would take a \$250 fine if that's what it was.

THE PRESIDENT: There's a case -- let me just say this. First, I'm very sorry about what happened. It's a terrible thing. And I think what you did in the legislature was a good thing. But I think there's a case where people really do need to be sensitized to the fact that bullets that go up will come down. I think there are some of these things where a public campaign to educate people would make a difference. And that's one I think would make a difference.

The larger question for me -- going back to this question of whether there are too many guns in the society -- I think that sometimes there's a lot of loose talk about this. We ought to talk specifically about what we mean. A lot of these -- most of the guns in America are in the hands of hunters and sports people and law enforcement people, are those guns -- most of the guns that are in those people's hands I think are safe and they're going to be properly used. But there's a huge, sort of sea of guns that's out there just kind of flowing around.

And that's one of the reasons I think that all the sales have to be checked, there has to be a background check on

all the sales; and one of the reasons I support these gun buy-back programs that a lot of cities are doing. And we're trying to put more money into it now, as well, because -- (technical difficulty) -- are law-abiding citizens, and you've got as many of these loose weapons as you can off the street.

Is your film on now? Are they trying to get it on now?

MS. SAWYER: No, no, I think we've got you in an echo chamber there for a moment.

We're going to take a break, in fact, Mr. President. And when we come back, we can explore more issues of, do we hold the parents accountable? To what extent? In what ways?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think you should. I think you should. (Applause.)

* * *

MR. GIBSON: Back to the Roosevelt Room of the White House with the President and some of those who will march in the Million Mom March on Sunday and some of those who are opposed to those who will march.

We were talking about parental responsibility, and there is an idea afoot in many states that there should be parental responsibility laws, so-called CAP laws, where parents are held responsible if their children get hold of a gun that they have in this house and commit a crime.

I'm just curious of this group, anybody on either side opposed to parental responsibility bills? No?

Q I have a caveat to it, though.

MR. GIBSON: All right, but basically not opposed. Because I want to get the question to the President. People seem to believe in this bill, and yet it's a law in only 17 states, and in only 3 states is it a felony.

THE PRESIDENT: And we couldn't get it in the legislation here. Representative McCarthy just pointed out that that was the one provision in my bill I couldn't get in either the Senate or the House version. So I think maybe -- this is something that is encouraging to me, because what you saw on that film with those young children -- below a certain age you can't expect an education program to work, you have to keep the guns away from the kids.

I think that's something we could all agree on we could get done here. That's very important. And I think the adults should be held responsible.

MR. GIBSON: And yet when you proposed it on a national level, neither House or Senate --

THE PRESIDENT: In the Kayla Rollins case, there is no question in my mind that if there had been responsible adults in that home, that child would be alive today.

MS. SAWYER: That is the Michigan case, we should point out, where a six-year-old boy killed a six-year-old classmate.

MR. GIBSON: A question here. Your name?

MS. THOMASES: I'm Donna Thomases. I feel that we all agree here that education is important. Like Ms. Howard said, we teach our children not to cross the street in traffic. But we also expect the drivers of the automobiles to be licenses and respect the laws, and if they run the red light and hit my child and they speed off, I want to know what that license plate is so the police can go after them. And that's all we're asking to march on Washington for, is something -- the simple licensing and registration of handgun owners, so they do have accountability, so that we can trace where these guns come from and how they get into the wrong hands. It's just common sense.

MS. SAWYER: We should point out to our viewers that Donna Thomases is, in fact, the organizer of the Million Mom March. (Applause.) It began in her living room.

MR. GIBSON: Comment on the registration --

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- let me back up and say, we cannot pass in this Congress licensing of handgun owners, which I have proposed. I think when people buy a handgun they ought to pass a Brady background check, have a gun safety education program, and have a photo ID license, just like when you have a car. That's what I believe.

And the registration of guns, the main virtue of that would be that you could trace them when they were used in a crime. If I steal your car, Charlie, and I drive it down to Maryland and rob a bank, and I leave it in a shopping center parking lot, and it's found, because the registration is on the National Crime Information Center computer system you can find out within literally 30 seconds after it's found what happened to your car.

But we can't even pass a bill to close the loophole in the Brady law when we know the Brady law has kept 500,000 felons, fugitives, and stalkers from getting handguns in the first place. So we can't pass that now. But should it be done? Well, of course, it should be done.

MR. GIBSON: I apologize. We're going to have to take another commercial break. Such are the imperatives of

television. We will come back, and I should say -- because I know a lot of you have things you want to say -- that we're going to go on through out second hour with all of you. So hold on here just a moment and we'll be back.

* * *

MS. SAWYER: I want to ask another question, because we were talking about safety locks again in the break. How many of you here oppose safety locks on guns?

Q Safety locks, or a law that requires safety locks?

MS. SAWYER: Okay. How many of you are for mandatory safety locks? And how many of you are for only voluntary. All right, we almost have a consensus issue there. At least safety locks should be on guns, one way or the other.

MR. GIBSON: You have a comment over here.

MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Good morning, Mr. President, and I want to thank you for inviting us here. I'm also from New York, and my son was killed last year. I have one question. Over 30 cities are suing the gun industry for flooding our cities and towns with guns. Will we continue the right to sue dangerously irresponsible people who are selling the guns to us?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think we should. And we supported the development of that lawsuit. But there is a move on by the gun manufacturers and their allies to try to get state legislatures to prohibit cities from being able to bring such suits, and their theory is -- I'll make their case for them real quick -- they say if a gun is a legal product, it's wrong to be able to sue the person who makes it.

The other side of the argument is there is -- if you look at the way the guns are marketed and sold, a relatively large percentage of guns used in crimes and used illegally are sold by a relatively small number of the gun dealers in America, and there is some evidence that the people who distribute the guns know that and do it anyway. And that's basically the argument behind the lawsuit.

And lawsuits are supposed to find facts, and this is the fact-finding process we're going to find, to see if a change in these policies, again, would make us safer. That's what it's about. Do I think they ought to have the right to bring the suit? I do, and I have supported it, and I've done what I could to protect it.

MS. SAWYER: On that front, Mr. President, I'm going to give the microphone to Lynn Dix, who has a story to tell.

MS. DIX: I have a lawsuit against the gun manufacturer

because my son would be here today if there had been a load indicator, if there had been an integral trigger lock -- he would be alive. And to me, the gun manufacturers are really responsible in that, in addition to parents, in that we know it's predictable -- for decades we have known that children have died in accidental shootings. I mean, there's no question. So if you know your product is involved in this, you can do something about it. You can put in integral trigger locks, you can put in load indicators so a child can pick up a gun -- or any gun owner, isn't that the first thing you want to know, whether there is a bullet in the chamber. Anybody would have to know that.

So I cannot understand why anyone would oppose prevention measures. I don't want to sacrifice another child so that somebody can be prosecuted. What's the sense in that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think one of the most troubling things that I've seen in this whole episode is a lot of the people who are opposed to what I want to do say these things should be voluntary, trigger locks should be voluntary -- let me just finish -- because I'm where you are on this -- so Smith & Wesson comes along and they say, okay, we'll put the trigger locks in and we'll stop dealing with bad dealers, and we'll do other things which we think will help. And they didn't lose a lawsuit to do it, they came in on the front end and said they were going to do it.

And there was the awfulest reaction to them. They were treated like they had betrayed the country, like they had committed treason, and gun manufacturers and everybody, they gave them a gut shot -- it was unbelievable what happened, the reaction to them. And this is something where a free corporation decided they would change their policy in ways that plainly would make America a safer place. And the reward they got was having the other gun manufacturers and some of their allies just try to literally take their heads off. And I think it was wrong. I think what they did was the right thing.

MR. GIBSON: Mr. President, I have to get you to an 8:15 a.m. helicopter. I will do that. I just want to give you a moment to sum up here. And I want to go back to something you said a few moments ago, which was that you wake up every morning thinking more about this issue than any other.

THE PRESIDENT: Domestic -- yes, because it's the one we have made the least -- we have both made the most progress on, but we've got a long way to go. And I think about it also because I grew up in a culture where more people thought like the minority here in this room who are in dissent.

Last weekend I was up in the Ozark Mountains, and I stopped at this little country store in the middle of the Ozarks. The last time I was there, 10 years ago, it was because I was out on a turkey hunt. Most of the people I spent time with were

either, if they weren't members of the NRA -- when I was hunting, you know, duck hunting, or whatever -- they had favorable opinions. As I said, when I was governor, I had both good and one horrible experience with the NRA.

But my view of this is I think we all have to realize we don't -- none of us claim that any of our positions are absolute and that we can make a perfect world, and nobody will ever get hurt, no bad person will ever get ahold of a gun, nothing wrong will ever happen. The people who are coming here to Washington, including many people in this room who have lost members of their families, understand that not every law they're advocating might have saved the particular life of the particular loved one they lost. Their loss got them interested in this, and they began to ask themselves: How can we make a safer country? How can we save more children like my children? How can we save more loved ones like my loved one?

I think, in fairness, the people who oppose them are good people; they really believe I think -- I don't know if they'll say it, but maybe after I'm gone they will -- I think they think we have some -- we either are weak on enforcement or we have some dark hidden agenda to take guns away from everybody, including lawful gun owners. And they think that would change America forever for the worse.

I don't have that agenda. I have never proposed any such rule. What I've tried to do, I'll say again, is I think that this area of our national life is an area where -- to go back to the very first question I was asked -- where I think we should not rest until we think we have done everything we can to prevent bad things from happening in the first place.

Every other area of our national life we first choose prevention. Then if things go haywire, we punish. This should not be the area where we say, because we're worried about people doing something someday that's bad, we're not going to have prevention, we'll just start with punishment. But we'll be for education, but we'll start with punishment. That's my whole take on this.

I think we could do a lot more on prevention, make it a lot safer country, and achieve the objectives of the Million Mom March, which is that all these women that are here, they want fewer stories like theirs. That's my own take on this.

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MORE

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So I just wanted to put this into context. I want you all to talk to each other when I leave. I've talked too much here. I learn more when I listen. Thank you very much.

MR. GIBSON: Mr. President, thank you very much.
(Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much.

MS. SAWYER: Thanks for letting us stay in the house while you're away. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: It's your house, not mine. I'm just passing through. (Applause.)

END

8:10 A.M. EDT

**PRESIDENT CLINTON:
SUPPORTING MOMS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE AND
WORKING TO ADVANCE SMART GUN TECHNOLOGY**

May 12, 2000

"Every day, nearly a dozen of our children are killed by guns. Twelve families suffer a wound that never heals. What is almost as senseless is the fact that Congress refuses to act on legislation that would prevent many of these shootings. But this Sunday, they will not be able to ignore the fact that the voices of more than 1 million moms across America will be demanding action."

President Bill Clinton
May 12, 2000

Today, in North Canton, Ohio, President Clinton met with state organizers of the Million Mom March, scheduled for Mother's Day, May 14 in Washington, D.C. and communities across the country to highlight the impact of gun violence on American families. The President expressed his strong support for these efforts and renewed his call to Congress to act on long-delayed gun safety legislation. The President also announced that the Justice Department is awarding a total of \$600,000 in grants to two gun manufacturers for the research and development of smart gun technologies. A smart gun can recognize and limit its use to its proper adult owner, thereby helping to prevent accidental shooting deaths and deter gun theft.

MOBILIZING MOTHERS AND FAMILIES AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE. On May 14, mothers and families across the country will join in the Million Mom March, a grassroots effort to focus the nation's attention on the terrible price of gun violence and to demand action to reduce the violence. The March, which is expected to draw over 150,000 mothers, fathers, children and other gun safety supporters to the National Mall, will be the largest gun safety rally in history. Emphasizing the fact that gunfire takes the lives of 12 children every day, March participants are calling for common-sense measures designed to keep guns out of the wrong hands and to prevent the accidental shootings that result in the death and injury of thousands of Americans every year.

URGING CONGRESS TO ACT NOW TO PROTECT AMERICA'S CHILDREN. For 10 months – despite numerous gun tragedies at schools, workplaces, and places of worship across America – Congress has refused to move forward on common-sense gun measures. The President again urged Congress to send him strong gun-safety legislation without delay that will:

- Close the gun-show loophole;
- Mandate child-safety locks with every handgun sold;
- Ban large-capacity ammunition clips;
- Bar the most violent juveniles from possessing firearms as adults; and
- Hold adults accountable if they allow children easy access to guns.

LEADING AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP SMART GUN TECHNOLOGY. The President announced that the Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice will award two grants of \$300,000 each to Smith & Wesson and FN Manufacturing, Inc. to fund additional smart gun research and development. Smart gun technologies show tremendous promise in reducing gun violence that results when firearms are taken intentionally or accidentally from their proper owners. Smart guns have the ability to distinguish an authorized user from someone who is not permitted to fire the weapon. The National Institute of Justice has supported smart gun research in response to FBI data showing that over the past decade, 113 weapons were stolen from police officers, and 57 officers were killed with their own guns. In this year's budget, the President has proposed a \$10 million initiative to expand the research, development and replication of smart gun technologies, and has proposed a state-based licensing plan that requires all new handgun purchasers to be trained in the proper handling and storage of firearms.

**President Clinton Promotes Smart Gun Technology
to Protect Children from Gun Violence
May 12, 2000**

Today, President Clinton will announce that the Justice Department is awarding grants to two gun manufacturers for the research and development of "smart gun" technologies. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) will provide Smith & Wesson and FN Manufacturing, Inc. a total of \$600,000 to expand their research efforts into smart guns. Smart gun technologies, have the potential to limit a gun's use to its proper adult owner - and could prevent accidental shooting deaths of children, deter gun theft, and stop criminals from seizing and using the guns of police officers against them.

LEADING AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP SMART GUN TECHNOLOGY. NIJ, the Justice Department's research and evaluation arm, will award two grants of \$300,000 each to Smith & Wesson and FN Manufacturing, Inc. to fund additional smart gun research and development. Smart gun technologies show tremendous promise in reducing gun violence that results when firearms are taken intentionally or accidentally from their proper owner. Such guns will have the ability to distinguish an authorized user from someone who is not otherwise permitted to fire the weapon. Today's grants will support the design and testing of smart gun prototypes as well as additional research into specific technologies, including fingerprint identification and embedded microelectronics, to prevent firing by unauthorized users.

PROVIDING FOR THE FUTURE EXPANSION OF SMART GUN TECHNOLOGY. In this year's budget, the President has proposed a \$10 million initiative to greatly expand the research, development and replication of smart gun technologies. Under the plan, NIJ would use the funding increase for additional smart gun research and development, to develop standards for smart gun technology use, and to provide continued funding for ongoing research grants. NIJ has worked with the Sandia National Laboratories to study which existing technologies, such as radio frequency, voice recognition, biometrics, and touch memory technology, could be adaptable to a smart gun. NIJ has supported smart gun research over the past few years in response to FBI data showing that over the past decade, 113 weapons were stolen from police officers, and 57 officers were killed with their own guns.

PUSHING FOR COMMON SENSE GUN SAFETY MEASURES. The President today will once again stress the importance of common sense gun measures that can reduce gun violence by keeping guns out of the wrong hands. First, he will continue to urge Congress to complete its work on juvenile crime legislation and pass a final bill that includes the Senate-passed provisions to close the gun show loophole, require child safety locks for handguns, bar the importation of large capacity ammunition clips, and ban violent juveniles from owning guns for life. Nearly a year has lapsed since these lifesaving measures passed in the Senate last May. The President will also renew his call on Congress to create a state-based licensing system that would apply to all new handgun purchases. Under the President's licensing plan, states would issue a license only to applicants who have passed a Brady background check and completed a certified safety course or exam.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2000

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(202) 218-4641

Handgun Control Analysis Finds Americans Strongly Favor Specific Proposals to Reduce Gun Violence

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The hundreds of thousands of mothers and others who will march on the National Mall on Mother's Day as part of the Million Mom March Across America is evidence of a growing national movement in support of gun control laws. These mothers, grandmothers, mothers-to-be, dads, sisters, brothers and concerned citizens will not just be gathering in Washington DC. Thousands more will march in local demonstrations against gun violence in 67 other cities across the country, calling on Congress to pass tough gun control laws to help keep guns out of the hands of criminals and children.

The march is the culmination of the massive groundswell of public support for new gun control measures in communities across America in addition to the public's frustration and outrage about lawmakers who put the special interests of the gun lobby ahead of public safety.

But the public's support for stronger firearms regulation and gun safety measures is not a temporary reaction to the mass shooting at Columbine High School and in other schools, workplaces, day care centers, even churches, across the country. According to a July 13, 1999, *Washington Post* op-ed article written by Tom W. Smith, Director of the General Social Survey at the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center (NORC), the public's support for gun control already existed "...well before Littleton." In fact, Smith writes that, "...after three years of surveying public opinion on guns, NORC has confirmed that even before the horrendous series of school massacres, majorities backed all measures to control guns short of banning ownership outright." Smith continues, "The NORC surveys show that the shootings have not created a transitory and unreflective bubble of public opinion for gun control but rather have focused political attention on the problem of gun violence and have revealed that a public consensus already exists to deal with the problem." In three annual, national surveys NORC found that majorities of up to 90% back all gun safety measures except a complete ban.

Handgun Control has analyzed recent polling conducted in states across the country since the shooting at Columbine in Littleton, Colorado, which confirms the findings of the National Opinion Research Center and indicates that there is still overwhelming public support for common-sense gun control laws.

(more)

In Colorado, ground zero in the debate about guns in America since last year's tragic shooting at Columbine, support for gun control is strong, even in a Western state with high levels of gun ownership. An April 2000 *USA Today/CNN Gallup Poll* found that over 60% of Coloradans feel that the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict. In addition, a March 2000 *Denver Post* poll found that 83% of Coloradans support closing the gun-show loophole.

In Georgia, traditionally viewed as a solid pro-gun state, a September 1999 Beth Schapiro & Associates poll found that 87% of voters in Georgia support requiring mandatory background checks for all sales at gun shows, even sales by unlicensed, private dealers. The same poll found that about 60% of Georgian voters support legislation to hold parents legally responsible if their children commit crimes with the parents' guns, or a Child Access Protection Law.

A March 2000 poll conducted by the Strategic Marketing Services in the state of Maine found that over 93% of the voters in the state favored raising the minimum age under Maine state law from 16 to 21 for the purchase of handguns. Furthermore, the poll found that over 62% of Maine citizens feel that gun laws covering the sale of firearms should be made stricter.

Maryland citizens also overwhelmingly support reasonable gun control measures. A Penn, Schoen & Berland poll conducted among likely Maryland voters between January 25 to February 3, 2000 found that a wide range of gun control proposals have considerable popular support in the state. Consider this: 74% of Maryland voters support mandatory handgun registration; 85% support requiring potential handgun purchasers to obtain a license from the police in order to purchase a handgun, with a fingerprint-based background check; and 76% favor legislation requiring childproof guns.

New Hampshire voters also strongly favor tougher gun control laws. A Northeastern University Poll conducted in May 2000 found that New Hampshire residents favor the following specific measures: 89% favor a law that makes gun owners responsible for keeping loaded guns away from minor children; 66% favor a ban on the possession of rapid fire assault weapons; and 65% favor stricter handgun controls, or placing limitations on the sale or possession of handguns.

In Ohio, an April 1999 poll conducted by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati found that most Ohioans oppose legislation that would make it easier to obtain a permit to carry a concealed handgun. Specifically, the Ohio Poll, which was conducted last year when the state legislature was considering legislation liberalizing Ohio's prohibition on carrying concealed weapons (CCW), found that 72% of Ohio adults opposed making it easier for citizens to obtain a CCW permit. More telling, 55% said they "strongly" opposed the legislation, while only 17% said they "strongly" favored such legislation.

Likewise, in Pennsylvania – a state with arguably one of the highest rates of gun owners in the country – gun control remains a popular concept. A February 1999 poll conducted by the American Viewpoint, Inc. found that 71% - statewide and 71% rural/suburban voters supported legislation to reduce handgun trafficking by limiting handgun purchases to one per month. What's more, an overwhelming 88% both statewide and in the rural/suburban areas favored a five day waiting period for the purchase of handguns.

(more)

And in Texas, where Governor George W. Bush failed to act last year to close the gun show loophole in his state, support for mandatory background checks for all sales at gun shows is extremely high. In fact, 85% of Texans, and 82% of Texas gun owners, responded in an October 1999 Scripps Howard poll that they support mandatory background checks before people – including gun dealers- could buy guns at gun shows. Moreover, requiring safety locks or trigger guards to be included with new handgun purchases has widespread support among Texans. In fact, 79% of Texans (72% of gun owners in the state) favor such a trigger lock proposal. Despite the high level of public support for mandatory trigger locks for all handgun sales, Governor Bush has never addressed the people of Texas or the Texas Legislature regarding trigger locks, not that he didn't have the opportunity. During the 1999 session of the Texas legislature, two bills were introduced to require the sale of child safety locks with handguns: Senate Bill 316, introduced by Sen. Rodney Ellis of Houston, and House Bill 489, introduced by Rep. Glenn Lewis of Fort Worth. Both bills failed. There is no record that Governor Bush ever contacted the authors of these bills or worked to enact them.

Given that the public's long-standing favorable attitudes about gun control and gun safety laws, it's no wonder that, when voters are given the choice to express their preference for strengthening or weakening state gun control laws, they consistently side on stronger gun laws.

In 1998, for example, Florida voters overwhelmingly passed ballot initiative Revision 12, a proposal to close the dangerous loophole in the state's gun laws by allowing Florida counties to impose mandatory background checks on all gun-sellers at gun shows. Despite strong NRA opposition and a multi-million dollar campaign to defeat the referendum, more than 70% of Floridians voted in favor of the initiative to close the gun show loophole. The success of the referendum has precipitated a domino effect, and today the gun show loophole is a national concern.

In April 1999, the NRA suffered another major electoral defeat in a Missouri referendum, Proposition B, on the issue of carrying concealed handguns which they had placed on the April 6 ballot, only two weeks before the Columbine massacre. The battle over Prop. B marked the first time that any state's voters were given the chance to vote on the controversial "concealed carry" issue. Missouri has been a no-carry state that has prohibited the carrying of concealed weapons since the outlaw days of Jesse James in 1875, and has long been a battleground for the NRA, for whom liberalizing these laws around the country has been a policy priority since the early '90s.

The NRA spent \$4 million – outspending their opponents by a 5 to 1 margin – and lost 52% - 48%. A strong bi-partisan coalition of law enforcement, business leaders, religious, medical and community activists organized a strong campaign to defeat the hidden handgun measure. In what may be a prophesy for the 2000 election cycle, the Prop. B election was decided by turnout in suburban St. Louis and Kansas City counties, typically Republican strongholds. Suburban St. Louis County, for example, rejected Prop. B by a 70%-30% margin.

Polling – both national and in states -- conducted over the last few years make clear that there is consistent, popular support for strengthening our country's gun control and gun safety laws. The Million Mom March movement, and grassroots ballot referendum campaigns planned in Colorado, Utah and Oregon, is further proof that the issue of gun violence in America is building momentum as more and more citizens are outraged by the gun lobby's dissembling and stalling tactics on gun safety legislation being debated in Congress and in state houses all over the country.

(more)

The national Million Mom March demonstration, will help mobilize a potent electoral force in November by bringing in thousands of new activists from around the country in support of reasonable gun laws.

** Complete polling data available to the media upon request.

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Handgun Control, chaired by Sarah Brady, was founded in 1974 by Dr. Mark Borinsky and N.T. "Pete" Shields, two victims of gun violence. Based in Washington, D.C., HCI works with law enforcement, public health, religious, and community groups across the country to strengthen and protect federal, state and local gun control laws, but does not seek to ban all guns. HCI has more than 400,000 members nationwide, making it the nation's largest citizens' gun control lobbying organization. More information about HCI and its sister organization, the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, can be found on our website at www.handguncontrol.org.

U.S. Mayors Join in Moms' Mission

By Susan Levine
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, May 12, 2000; Page B03

The "wall of death" stands nearly 13 feet high. It extends 54 feet from left to right. On it are written the names of 4,001 Americans. The youngest was 2. The oldest was 97.

Bullets killed them all.

Yesterday, at the very place where tens of thousands of demonstrators will gather Sunday, the wall was unveiled by its creators as the starkest evidence possible of the toll guns take day after day in this country. But the exhibit by the U.S. Conference of Mayors does not show a complete picture, just an 11-month snapshot from 100 cities.

The starting date was April 20, 1999--the day of the massacre at Colorado's Columbine High School.

"You're talking the magnitude of a war," declared Washington Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D), speaking at a news conference at which the mayors endorsed Sunday's Million Mom March on the Mall.

"Unfortunately, these victims died for no great cause. They died on our own streets, in our own neighborhoods."

"If this were any other cause of death occurring in this country," suggested Scott King, mayor of Gary, Ind., "we would be outraged, and I dare say the Congress of the United States would be outraged, and I dare say it would take action."

The mayors conference has been on record since last fall as supporting the massive mothers' demonstration that this weekend will demand gun-control legislation be passed on Capitol Hill.

Yesterday, other elected officials weighed in on the event, which will have some competition from a Mall counter-rally by the Second Amendment Sisters. The gun-rights supporters contend that the constitutional right to bear arms is inviolable and that the cost of gun violence is far exceeded by the number of times a firearm averts a crime or death.

President Clinton, who will hold a reception Sunday for 1,000 mothers, said the Million Mom March should motivate Congress to approve long-stalled gun control legislation. Attorney General Janet Reno offered strong support, too.

"It depends upon whether the members of Congress feel the human

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"It depends upon whether the members of Congress feel the human impact, which to me is the most powerful thing," Clinton said, "and also realize that when more and more people care about this issue, it's become what I call a voting issue."

In an interview from his office in Austin, Texas Gov. George W. Bush said he was glad so many people were talking about gun violence. But the Republican presidential candidate stressed: "We need to enforce laws on the books. We need to be very firm about making sure that people who illegally sell guns or illegally use guns face consequences."

The mayors' wall was conceived last summer as an exhibit for Gun Safety Day. But as police departments in various cities began sending in information, the power of the names--and their numbers--took hold.

April 20, 1999: Harry Allen, 37, Houston; Earl Bennett, 20, New Orleans; Joaquim Machado, 30, Providence, R.I.; Juan Mendoza, 35, Dallas; Percy L. Miller, 20, Memphis; April Bonita Turner, 18, Washington, D.C.; Vernon L. Wasvick, 59, Oklahoma City.

Of the 4,001 names, which the mayors organization compiled in a report, "The Death Toll Since Columbine," 308 were 17 or younger. One was Blake King, 17, of Gary. He was the mayor's nephew, killed June 30 after a fight in his front yard with a best friend.

"How did Blake die?" his uncle said yesterday at the news conference. "The other young man got up, ran next door and got his father's handgun." It was loaded. The trigger had no safety lock. He returned, fired once, hitting Blake in the head.

The teenager, convicted of reckless homicide, is now serving seven years in prison.

"However one can bleed by association" as an elected official, King concluded, "it's a different ball game when you sit in a church and you hear sobbing behind you, and it's your own children sobbing for their cousin."

The report, posted on the Internet at www.usmayors.org/uscm/gun_safety/2000report.pdf, distinguishes the numbers further. From April 20, 1999, to March 20, it shows, only eight of the 100 cities recorded no firearm fatalities. In contrast, Washington had 175; Baltimore, 245; Chicago, 415; and Houston, 238. Every day in those 11 months was marred by a gun death, according to the report.

Yet the total is far from a true picture of all U.S. cities during that time. Neither New York City nor Los Angeles responded to requests for their statistics. For the same reason, according to a conference spokesman, Phoenix, Orlando, Albuquerque, Cleveland and Richmond also do not appear on the wall.

The mayors organization is a bipartisan group of 1,100 mayors from cities with more than 30,000 residents. A spokesman acknowledged more are Democrats than Republicans but cautioned that a definitive breakdown is impossible since at least one-third of the members don't report any party affiliation. As an organization, they have supported the measures advocated by the Million Mom March, including limited handgun purchases, mandatory trigger locks, more extensive background checks and handgun licensing and regulation.

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The conference's executive director, J. Thomas Cochran, isn't surprised that mayors can find common ground when Congress, so far, has not. "I think it is the difference between being a mayor working with your police chief and having to go to funerals," he said.

After Sunday, the mayors plan to add to the wall so that its tally will equal one full year from Columbine. They hope to make the black core-board panels more permanent and take the exhibit on tour.

For now, March 20 is its ending date. And the 4,001st name?

Henry Ulises Vaqueramo, 19, of Washington, D.C.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

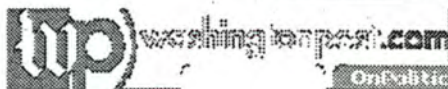
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**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

Column Million Mom
March 5/10/00

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2000

- 1 -

FINAL

NEW YORK, NY

NEW YORK CITY

LEAD ADVANCE:

MICHAEL GASPARD

917/649-5852 PAGER

SYRACUSE LEAD

ADVANCE :

ELLEN POCH

607/256-3760 PHONE

607/275-7703 CELL

RESTAURANT/SCHOOL

SITE ADVANCE:

MICHAEL FOODMAN

HOSPITAL SITE ADVANCE:

ABBY BRIGGERMAN

SCHEDULER:

MELODIE GREENE

202/456-7847 PHONE

202/395-1501 CELL

202/456-5340 FAX

202/667-5547 HOME

WHCA PAGER #4938

PREV RON

Private Residence

7:55 am

DEPART Private Residence

EN ROUTE Terrace at the Park

[Drive time: approximately 30 minutes]

8:25 am

ARRIVE Terrace at the Park

GREETERS:

Frank Meehan, President of UFCW Local 1500

Tony Speelman, Political Dir. of UFCW Local 1500

Bruce Both, Sec/Treas of UFCW Local 1500

8:30 am-

MEET AND GREET WITH UFCW LEADERS

8:40 am

Crystal Suite

Terrace at the Park

CLOSED PRESS/UFCW PHOTO

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2000

- 2 -

8:45 am- **UFCW LOCAL 1500 BREAKFAST**
9:35 am Main Ballroom
Terrace at the Park
52-11 111th Street - Flushing Meadow Park
Queens, NY
Hold: Room 20
Phone: 718/592-5000
Fax: 718/592-6698
CLOSED PRESS

FORMAT:

-HRC is escorted into by Bruce Both, Sec/Treas of
UFCW Local 1500, and by Tony Speelman, Political
Director of UFCW Local 1500.

-HRC takes seat at dais.

-Frank Meehan, President of UFCW Local 1500,
makes welcoming remarks and introduces HRC.

-HRC makes remarks.

-HRC works a ropeline and departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 300 guests

9:40 am **DEPART** Terrace at the Park
EN ROUTE LaGuardia International Airport
[Drive time: 10 minutes]

9:50 am **ARRIVE** LaGuardia International Airport

10:00 am **WHEELS UP** LaGuardia International Airport
EN ROUTE Syracuse Airport
[Flight time: 45 minutes]

10:45 am **WHEELS DOWN** Syracuse Airport

10:50 am **PREP CALL**

11:00 am **DEPART** Syracuse Airport
EN ROUTE Dinosaur Restaurant
[Drive time: 10 minutes]

11:10 am **ARRIVE** Dinosaur Restaurant

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2000

- 3 -

GREETERS:

Suzanne Bragman
Bernie DeJoseph, Sec/Treas of Building Trades
Council
Tony Nesci, UAW Local 624 CAP and PAC Director
Michael Nesci, Leg. Assis. to Assemblyman Gantt
Abigail Doyle, Dinosaur Restaurant

11:15 am-

LUNCH VISIT TO DINOSAUR RESTAURANT

12:10 pm

Dinosaur Restaurant
246 West Willow Road
Syracuse, NY 13202
Hold: back area of restaurant
Phone: 315/476-1662
Fax: 315/476-1663 office across street
CLOSED PRESS

FORMAT:

-HRC mixes and mingles with restaurant guests.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 125 guests

12:15 pm

DEPART Dinosaur Restaurant
EN ROUTE Marley Education Center, Crouse Hospital
[Drive time: 10 minutes]

12:25 pm

ARRIVE Marley Education Center, Crouse Hospital

GREETERS:

Dick Farfaglia, Communications Director, Local
1199
Ruth Heller, Union Representative, Local 1199
Marshall Blake, President of Local 1199
Pat Greenberg, R.N., Member of Local 1199

12:30 pm-

PRIVATE MEETING

12:35 pm

Room 213
Marley Education Center
CLOSED PRESS

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

• **WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2000**

- 4 -

12:40 pm- **NURSES RECOGNITION DAY CONFERENCE**
1:30 pm Auditorium

Marley Education Center
Crouse Hospital
736 Irving Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13210
Hold: Room 213
Phone: 315/470-8890
Fax: 315/470-2764 room 229
OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

-HRC enters auditorium accompanied by Marshall Blake, President of Local 1199, and Kaye Jaeger, Member of Executive Board of Local 1199.

-Kaye Jaeger makes welcoming remarks and introduces Marshall Blake.

-Marshall Blake makes remarks and introduces HRC.

-HRC makes remarks.

-HRC works a ropeline from stage right to left and departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 180 guests

1:35 pm **DEPART** Marley Education Center, Crouse Hospital
EN ROUTE Syracuse Hebrew Day School, Dewitt, NY
[Drive time: 15 minutes]

1:50 pm **ARRIVE** Syracuse Hebrew Day School

GREETERS:

Marcia Rothenberg
Barbara Davis, Co-Principal
John Blasi, Co-Principal

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2000

- 5 -

1:55 pm- **ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENT**

3:00 pm Cafeteria
Syracuse Hebrew Day School
5655 Thompson Road
Dewitt, NY
Hold: tbd
Phone: 315/445-2146 lounge
Fax: 315/446-3714 office
OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

-HRC enters cafeteria and takes seat in the front of the room.

-HRC watches approximately 7 class presentations.

-Barbara Davis, Co-Principal makes brief remarks and introduces Marcia Rothenberg.

-Marcia Rothenberg makes brief remarks and introduces HRC.

-HRC makes brief remarks.

-Singing of Israeli National Anthem.

-HRC assists in handing out cupcakes to kids.

-HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 180 guests

3:05 pm- **ONE ON ONE INTERVIEW WITH SYRACUSE POST STANDARD**

3:15 pm Room tbd
Syracuse Hebrew Day School

INTERVIEWER: Sean Kurst

3:20 pm- **PRESS AVAILABILITY**

3:30 pm Parking lot
Syracuse Hebrew Day School

3:35 pm **DEPART** Syracuse Hebrew Day School
EN ROUTE Syracuse Airport
[Drive time: 20 minutes]

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2000

- 6 -

3:55 pm **ARRIVE** Syracuse Airport

4:05 pm **WHEELS UP** Syracuse Airport
EN ROUTE Islip/McArthur Airport
[Flight time: 45 minutes]

4:50 pm **WHEELS DOWN** Islip/McArthur Airport

5:00 pm **DEPART** Islip/McArthur Airport
EN ROUTE Private Residence
[Drive time: 45 minutes]

5:45 pm **ARRIVE** Private Residence

5:50 pm- **HOLD**
6:10 pm

6:15 pm- **HILLARY 2000 RECEPTION**
8:00 pm Private Residence
 Hold: tbd
 Phone: tbd
 Fax: tbd
 CLOSED PRESS

FORMAT:

-HRC stands for a formal photo receiving line.

-Perry Weitz makes welcoming remarks and introduces HRC.

-HRC makes remarks and opens Q&A.

-Upon conclusion of Q&A, HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: 85 guests

8:05 pm **DEPART** Private Residence
EN ROUTE Private Residence
[Drive time: approximately 1 hour]

MOTORCADE MANIFEST

LIMO: HRC, CRAIGHEAD, STEIN

9:05 pm **ARRIVE** Private Residence

RON Private Residence

TALKING IT OVER

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

May 10, 2000

Earlier this week, the FBI released new statistics showing that crime is down for the eighth year in a row, the longest decline on record. One dramatic statistic: In 1999, there were over 8,000 fewer murders nationwide than in 1992.

And yet, with gun violence declining, gunfire still claims the lives of nearly 12 children every day.

The American Academy of Pediatrics calls the rate of firearm injuries and deaths among young people a major public health issue, and warns that, if current trends continue, gun violence could become the leading cause of death among children in this country by 2006.

In the nation's capital, Easter Monday dawned bright and sunny -- the perfect day for an outing. Schools were out, and hundreds of families headed to the National Zoo. But before the day was over, seven children, ranging in age from 11 to 16, fell victim to gunfire when a 16-year-old allegedly used a handgun to settle a dispute. Shot in the head, fifth-grader Harris Bates remains hospitalized with critical injuries.

So now, we add the National Zoo to the list: Littleton, Jonesboro, Flint, West Paducah, Springfield, Pearl, Conyers, Fort Worth and Granada Hills -- names that should haunt us until, as a nation, we summon the courage to get guns out of the hands of children and criminals.

Predictably, after each tragic shooting, there are loud calls for stricter gun laws. The President has urged Congress to send him a gun safety bill that he can sign, and has proposed the largest national gun enforcement initiative in history. Last May, the Senate passed a bill that mandated safety locks for handguns, banned imports of large-capacity ammunition clips, and required sellers at gun shows to do background checks on gun buyers. But under the weight of the gun lobby, negotiations with the House so far have failed.

Meanwhile, as this lifesaving legislation languishes, thousands more children have been killed or injured with guns. I find myself wondering how members of Congress can bear to delay taking action even one extra day. How many more children are they willing to let die? When will they join the majority of Americans and say, "Enough is enough"?

Last August, a New Jersey mother of two decided she had had enough, and that it was time to send a very loud message to Congress and politicians around the country. Donna Dees-Thomases says her wake-up call came as she watched the news of the Granada Hills day camp shooting. She says she felt ashamed -- "Ashamed because I've sat back while others battle the gun lobby to protect our children."

One week later, Donna applied for a permit to lead a Mother's Day march on the nation's capital. On May 14, women from every corner of the nation will descend on Washington for the Million Mom March. Designed to put Congress

on notice that common-sense gun policies, such as licensing and registration, are what the American people want, organizers are hoping to attract not just mothers, but also fathers, grandparents, children, neighbors, family and friends to join in their effort.

Leaders of the rally do not advocate banning guns. Rather, they want gun owners to be licensed, registered, and to participate in mandatory safety training. Organizers also support sensible "cooling-off" periods for handgun sales, background checks for all gun purchases, safety locks, one-handgun-per-month purchase limits and no-nonsense enforcement of existing gun laws.

Yvonne Pope, whose son was shot dead on July 29, 1993, after an argument on the basketball court, will march on Sunday. Even as she talks about what it's like to know that she will never hear her son's voice again or give him a hug, she says that standing arm in arm with thousands of other women will be a blessing.

Nov. 6, 1995, is the day Jaquie Algee lost her 19-year-old son Kenneth to gun violence. Jaquie is organizing the Atlanta march, the largest of the local events that will take place on Sunday in 63 other cities around the country. Like millions of other moms, Jaquie is angry. She says, "Too many children are dying preventable deaths. We are putting our elected officials on notice that we, the mothers, will no longer tolerate them putting the gun lobby before the safety of our children." It is past time for Congress to support meaningful gun safety measures. Like car owners, gun owners should undergo safety training. And like drivers, gun owners should be licensed and required to register their weapons. The choice is simple: Stand by and do nothing as a dozen children are killed each day, or join the Million Mom March this Sunday, and send Congress the message that America's moms have had enough.

If you'd like to learn more about the Million Mom March, you can visit their web site at www.millionmommarch.com, or call, toll-free, 1-888-989-MOMS (6667).

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

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Talking it Over

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On Teens 5/3/00

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2000

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FINAL

WASHINGTON, DC/ FORT EDWARD, NY/ INDIAN LAKE, NY/ MALONE, NY/
PLATTSBURGH, NY

LEAD ADVANCE-MORNING:	MIKE PERRIN	
	518/229-6408	CELL
LEAD ADVANCE-EVENING:	JIM CLANCY	
	518/527-5517	CELL
SCHEDULER:	MELODIE GREENE	
	202/456-7847	PHONE
	202/395-1501	CELL
	202/456-5340	FAX
	202/667-5547	HOME
	WHCA PAGER	#4938

PREV RON The White House

8:40 am **DEPART** The White House
 EN ROUTE Andrews Air Force Base
 [Drive time: 25 minutes]

8:45 am **PREP CALL**

9:05 am **ARRIVE** Andrews Air Force Base

9:15 am **WHEELS UP** Andrews Air Force Base
 EN ROUTE Glen Falls Airport
 [Flight time: 1 hour]

10:15 am **WHEELS DOWN** Glen Falls Airport

10:25 am **DEPART** Glen Falls Airport
 EN ROUTE Rogers Island Visitor's Center
 [Drive time: approximately 15 minutes]

10:40 am **ARRIVE** Rogers Island Visitor's Center

GREETERS:

Richard Fuller, VP, Rogers Island Community
Development Corporation
Joanne Fuller, Director, Washington Cty Tourism
Pamela Brooks, President, Chamber of Commerce
Mary Ellen Barlow, VP, Chamber of Commerce
Pamela Burns, HUD Consultant
April Lamoy, Secretary, Chamber of Commerce

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2000

- 2 -

10:45 am- **VISIT TO ROGERS ISLAND VISITOR'S CENTER**

11:45 am 11 Rogers Island Drive
Fort Edward, NY - Washington County
Hold: Office
Phone: 518/747-3693
Fax: N/A
OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

-Richard Fuller guides HRC on tour of visitor's center.

-HRC proceeds to conference room for a meet and greet with local leaders and visitor's center volunteers.

-HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 40-60 guests

11:50 am **DEPART** Rogers Island Visitor's Center

EN ROUTE Oak Barrel Restaurant
[Drive time: approximately 1 hour]

12:50 pm **ARRIVE** Oak Barrel Restaurant

GREETERS:

Almina Baker, Hamilton County Chair
Richard Farr, Hamilton County Vice-Chair
Linda Mitchell, County Committee Woman
Tom and Kathy Scully, Owners of Oak Barrel
Sharon, Rebecca, and Bridget Scully

12:55 pm- **LUNCH WITH LOCAL ELECTEDS**

1:55 pm Oak Barrel Restaurant
Indian Lake, NY - Hamilton County
Hold: Small dining room
Phone: 518/648-5115
Fax: 518/648-5489 (Chamber of Commerce building)
POOL PRESS

FORMAT:

-HRC enters small dining room to greet senior citizens from North Creek Nursing Home.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2000

- 3 -

-HRC enters restaurant and greets guests at tables.

-HRC takes seat at table in the center of the restaurant.

-HRC proceeds to small dining room for photo-op with 20 students from local high school student government class.

-HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 40-50 guests

2:00 pm **DEPART** Oak Barrel Restaurant
 EN ROUTE TBD
 [Drive time: tbd]

tbd pm **ARRIVE** TBD

tbd pm-
tbd pm **OTR/DOWN TIME**

tbd pm **DEPART** OTR/Down Time
 EN ROUTE Gallagher's Restaurant
 [Drive time: tbd]

6:25 pm **ARRIVE** Gallagher's Restaurant

GREETERS:
TBD

6:30 pm-
8:00 pm **DINNER**
 Gallagher's Restaurant
 Malone, NY - Franklin County
 Hold: Hotel room
 Phone: 518/483-0500 hotel, 518/483-8631 restaurant
 Fax: 518/483-4356
 OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

-HRC enters restaurant and takes seat at head table.

-TBD makes welcoming remarks and introduces TBD.

-TBD makes brief remarks and introduces HRC.

. **SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2000

- 4 -

-HRC makes remarks.

-HRC works a ropeline and departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 175 guests

8:05 pm **DEPART** Gallagher's Restaurant
 EN ROUTE Holiday Inn, Plattsburgh, NY
 [Drive time: approximately 1 hour]

9:05 pm **ARRIVE** Holiday Inn

RON Holiday Inn
 Plattsburgh, NY - Clinton County
 Phone: 518/561-5000
 Fax: 518/562-2974

WEATHER FORECAST:

Washington, DC - Sunny with highs around 70.

Upstate NY - Partly cloudy with highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 40s.

TALKING IT OVER

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

May 3, 2000

Despite declarations of independence and "KEEP OUT" signs hung on closed bedroom doors, America's teenagers need -- and want -- guidance and support from their parents.

This information comes from a new poll commissioned by the YMCA, and released this morning at the first-ever White House Conference on Teenagers. And the news may come as a surprise to many parents. After all, isn't this the age when our children would rather spend two hours talking on the phone to a friend than 10 minutes in a conversation with Mom or Dad?

Yet, according to the poll, more than three out of four teenagers say they still turn to their parents in times of trouble. In fact, while parents list the threat of drugs and alcohol as their chief worries, teenagers themselves list education and "not having enough time" with their parents as their top concerns. Today's conference brought together parents, teens, policymakers and other experts to discuss the importance of the teenage years in the social and intellectual development of children. Like the 1997 White House Conference on Early Learning and Childhood Development, today's gathering underscored some of the common misconceptions that parents have, and offered strategies for raising responsible and resourceful children. It has been my good fortune, over the the last 30 years, to talk to thousands of teens in hundreds of settings. Despite negative messages too often sent by the media, America's teens are full of promise and potential. But ask them, and they will tell you that what should be the best years of their lives are too often filled with stress, alienation and confusion. What teens need -- a theme returned to by each speaker today -- is a connection. They need a relationship with an adult who cares about them. In the words of psychologist Urie Bronfenbrenner, "Somebody's got to be crazy about that kid, and vice versa!"

Dr. Robert Blum, one of the country's leading experts on adolescent health, assured us that "families matter." His research shows that, when families are connected, sexual activity is delayed, and there is less tobacco and alcohol use, less emotional distress and less violence. "The key," he says, "is giving young people the consistent message that they matter."

But how do parents send that message? One way, espoused by many of today's speakers, is by having dinner -- or lunch, or breakfast -- together. One of the biggest casualties of modern life is family time -- that time when parents and children can check out of their busy schedules, and check in with each other. Before our daughter left for college, my husband and I made it a priority to share at least one meal with her every day. It wasn't always easy, but we made the effort, and that half-hour in the small kitchen of our private quarters was my favorite part of the day.

By making the time to be together, Bill and I sent our daughter a simple message -- one that she carried with her when she went 3,000 miles away to college: Whenever she needs to talk, to ask advice, or just say hello, we will always be available and eager to listen.

One of the initiatives that I was proud to announce this morning is a new public awareness campaign designed to challenge parents to make more time for their teens, and encourage businesses to offer more flexible work schedules and policies for parents. The President, who announced that he will sign an Executive Order prohibiting discrimination against parents in the federal workforce, challenged all employers: "Don't put up glass ceilings for parents. A parent's job is tough enough." Ben Casey of the Dallas YMCA described the role that community organizations can play. In Dallas, the Y has initiated a partnership with a dot-com grocery store, a dry cleaner and a pharmacy. When parents arrive to pick up their children at the Y, they can also pick up their groceries, their cleaning and their pharmacy items. In return for this free service, each family must agree to go home, turn off the TV, and have dinner together. This is just the kind of support busy parents -- and their children -- need. Hundreds of programs like this are working all over the country, but getting the word out isn't always easy. For that reason, I was pleased to announce that a new White House task force will create a web site to link parents to successful programs just like this one. A companion site will offer age-appropriate resources for their children.

Laura Sessions Stepp, author of "Our Last Best Shot: Guiding Our Children Through Early Adolescence," summed up the three Rs that teens need to reach their full promise and potential: respect, responsibility and close relationships. It is time for all of us -- not just parents -- to do a better job of telling teens that we value them, we love them, we care about them, and we want to be involved in their lives.

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

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Talking it Over

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**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2000

- 1 -

FINAL

WASHINGTON, DC

SCHEDULER:	MELODIE GREENE
	202/456-7847 PHONE
	202/395-1501 CELL
	202/456-5340 FAX
	202/667-5547 HOME
	WHCA PAGER #4938

PREV RON The White House

9:30 am- **BRIEFING**
9:45 am Map Room

9:50 am- **MEET AND GREET**
10:15 am Blue Room
 CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 30 guests

10:15 am- **WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON TEENAGERS**
12:30 pm East Room
 OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

-POTUS and HRC are announced into the East Room accompanied by Ben Casey and families.

-POTUS and HRC proceed to stage.

-HRC makes remarks and introduces POTUS.

-POTUS makes remarks and introduces Ben Casey.

-Ben Casey makes brief remarks.

Approx 10:45am -POTUS thanks Ben Casey and departs East Room.

-HRC proceeds to table on stage to begin Panel I.

-Panel I.

Approx 11:05am -Panel II.

-Panel II concludes and HRC departs.

**SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2000**

- 2 -

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 200 guests

12:40 pm- **TAPING OF VOICEOVER FOR ROSIE O'DONNELL**
12:55 pm OEOB Radio Studio - Room 415

1:00 pm- **REENLISTING CEREMONY FOR MIKE INGRAM**
1:10 pm Map Room
WH PHOTO

1:15 pm- **DROP-BY**
1:20 pm Diplomatic Reception Room
WH PHOTO

1:30 pm- **PHONE/DOWN TIME**
6:00 pm

6:05 pm **DEPART** The White House
EN ROUTE The Phoenix Park Hotel
[Drive time: 10 minutes]

6:15 pm **ARRIVE** The Phoenix Park Hotel

GREETERS:
Senator Tom Daschle
Senator Harry Reid

6:20 pm- **HILLARY 2000 RECEPTION**
7:30 pm Georgine Room
The Phoenix Park Hotel
520 North Capitol Street
Washington, DC
Hold: General Manager's Office
Phone: 202/638-6900 737-9550
Fax: 202/661-4592
CLOSED PRESS

FORMAT:
-HRC enters Georgine Room and stands for a photo receiving line.

-Senator Harry Reid makes welcoming remarks and introduces Senator Tom Daschle.

-Senator Tom Daschle makes brief remarks and introduces HRC.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2000

- 3 -

-HRC makes brief remarks and opens Q&A.

-Upon conclusion of Q&A, HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 50 guests

7:35 pm **DEPART** The Phoenix Park Hotel
 EN ROUTE Private Residence
 [Drive time: 15 minutes]

7:50 pm **ARRIVE** Private Residence

7:55 pm- **HILLARY 2000 RECEPTION**
8:25 pm Private Residence
 CLOSED PRESS

FORMAT:

-HRC enters lower level patio.

-John Harrison makes brief welcoming remarks and introduces Barbara Harrison.

-Barbara Harrison makes brief remarks and introduces HRC.

-HRC makes brief remarks and then proceeds to hold while guests move to following reception.

-HRC proceeds on foot to following reception accompanied by Carolyn Lamm, Peter Halle, and John and Barbara Harrison.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 80 guests

8:30 pm **DEPART** Private Residence
 EN ROUTE Private Residence
 [Walk time: 5 minutes]

8:35 pm **ARRIVE** Private Residence

8:40 pm- **HILLARY 2000 DINNER**
10:00 pm Private Residence
 CLOSED PRESS

FORMAT:

-HRC enters residence and stands for a photo receiving line.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2000

- 4 -

-Peter Halle makes welcoming remarks and introduces Carolyn Lamm.

-Carolyn Lamm makes brief remarks and introduces HRC.

-HRC makes brief remarks and opens Q&A.

-Upon conclusion of Q&A, HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 40 guests

10:05 pm **DEPART** Private Residence
 EN ROUTE The White House
 [Drive time: 15 minutes]

10:20 pm **ARRIVE** The White House

RON The White House

May 1, 2000

**THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON TEENAGERS:
RAISING RESPONSIBLE AND RESOURCEFUL YOUTH**

DATE:	May 2, 2000
LOCATION:	East Room
BRIEFING TIME:	9:30am – 9:45 am
MEET AND GREET:	9:45 am – 10:15 am
EVENT TIME:	10:15 – 10:45 am
FROM:	Bruce Reed Melanne Verveer Shirley Sagawa Ann O'Leary Capricia Marshall

I. PURPOSE

To bring together experts, policy makers and practitioners to highlight the social and developmental importance of the teenage years and that teenagers need the critical support of their parents as much as young children do. This Conference will address the anxiety and frustrations felt by teens and parents particularly since the tragedy at Columbine High School.

II. BACKGROUND

At the first-ever White House Conference on Teenagers, chaired by the First Lady, your Administration will announce several new steps to engage the public and private sectors in: 1) information about today's teens; 2) tools for parents; and 3) tools for teens.

Highlights of these initiatives include:

CEA Report that Shows Positive Trends for Today's Teens and the Need for Continued Parental Involvement. At the Conference, you will release a new report by the President's Council of Economic Advisers, *Teenagers and their Parents in the 21st Century: An Examination of Trends in Teen Behavior and the Role of Parental Involvement*. This report outlines positive trends for today's teenagers – including increases in student achievement and college attendance, increased participation in community service, declining rates of pregnancy, and declines in suicides and homicides. The report shows that teens with engaged and involved parents are more likely to do well

in school and to avoid such risk behaviors as smoking, drinking, and early sexual activity. It also outlines real challenges facing young people today: college-attendance gaps remain wide between whites and Hispanics and African Americans, as well as between teenagers from low-income and high-income families; more teens are smoking and have poor nutrition; and, in states where teens have greater access to guns, rates of teen suicide and gun accident death are higher.

YMCA Poll Showing that Teens and Parents Differ in their Concerns. You will release a YMCA of the USA poll commissioned for the White House Conference and conducted by Global Strategy Group, showing that despite the positive trends highlighted in the CEA report, parents feel significant anxiety about the well-being of their teenagers. They rate drugs and alcohol, education, and violence as their top concerns, while teenagers rate "not having enough time together" with parents and education as their top issues. The poll shows that many families are unable to eat meals together more than a few times a week, that many teens report that they watch television and surf the Internet without parental supervision, and that many parents wish they had more quality time with their teens.

New Brain Research Suggests that Early Adolescence is a Critical Time of Development. The First Lady will highlight preliminary research conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health indicating that the cognitive portion of the brain goes through a critical second wave of development just before puberty. Although the total size of the brain is already 95% of its adult size by the first grade, this research shows that the gray matter of the brain thickens as the brain cells grow extra connections. This process peaks at about 11 years in girls and 12 years in boys, after which excess connections are "pruned," resulting in a thinning of the gray matter. This exciting new finding implies that the early years of adolescence are pivotal years for determining the make-up of the adult brain.

TOOLS FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

Executive Order on Non-Discrimination Against Parents in the Federal Workplace. You will release an Executive Order to bar discrimination against parents in the federal workplace. This Executive Order mirrors the "Ending Discrimination Against Parents Act of 1999," which you announced in your 1999 State of the Union address and which was introduced on November 10, 1999, by Senators Dodd and Kennedy. The Order would bar discrimination against parents in all aspects of employment, including recruitment, referral, hiring, promotions, discharge, training, and other terms and conditions of employment. The Order would also prohibit employers in the Executive Branch from acting on mere assumptions that parents, or those with parental responsibilities, cannot satisfy the requirements of a particular position. The Order would not interfere with an employer's ability to select workers who are able to perform the jobs in question; it would simply ensure that workers are not discriminated against simply because they are parents.

Urging Support for Parents to Spend Time with Their Teens. Research to be discussed at the Conference shows that teens whose parents are active and engaged in their lives are more likely to avoid risky behavior and to do better in school. You and First Lady will announce a number of steps to help parents and teens spend time together:

- **“Time with Your Teens Campaign”.** The First Lady will announce a new public education campaign to raise awareness about the importance of parent-teen time together, including family mealtime. The National Partnership for Women and Families, along with the Families and Work Institute, will spearhead an effort to bring a national coalition together to develop a public education campaign around this issue. This campaign will highlight the importance of business support for family time, the need for continued parental involvement in middle school and high school, and a challenge to parents and teens to make time for one another.
- **Family Meal Time for Federal Workers.** In the Federal workplace, the Office of Personnel Management will raise awareness among parents of teenagers about benefits they can use – including flexible work schedules – in order to make family time a priority.
- **Expansion of FMLA.** You will also renew your call for Congress to pass an expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act to allow eligible workers an additional 24 hours of leave to participate in family responsibilities, such as parent-teacher conferences.

Task Force on “Navigating the New Media Age”. The First Lady will announce a public-private effort to provide tools for parents and teens to find resources through the media and to help parents monitor their teens’ media usage. The task force plans to complete its work within six months and will: establish an Internet site that provides a one-stop information site for parents of teenagers, including a newly developed Federal effort, “Parenting Resources in the 21st Century” www.parentingresources.ncjrs.org; provide comprehensive information for parents on understanding and monitoring the usage of media by their teenagers by developing one web-site, sponsored by the media and entertainment industries, on media ratings systems; establish a portal for teenagers that would include non-commercial teenager-friendly resources on the Internet; and, provide guidance to local communities on how to set up one-stop information centers to provide information on services, hotlines, and community opportunities to teenagers and parents of teenagers through toll-free numbers and local web sites.

The following partners are members of this task force: Center for Media Education, American Psychological Association, America’s Promise, Children’s Defense Fund, National Network for Youth, United Way of America, and GetNetWise.

Tips for Parents. Parents want to know how they can best nurture and raise their children to avoid risky behaviors, including drug, alcohol and tobacco use, sex, and violence. For the first time, a coalition of prevention campaigns have joined forces with the Federal government to offer strategies for parents. *Parents Matter: Tips for Raising*

Teenagers was jointly produced by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the National Campaign Against Youth Violence, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, the U.S. Department of Education, in partnership with the Afterschool Alliance, will release the Afterschool Parent Action Kit to help parents identify, create or improve afterschool programs in their communities in order to provide safe and enriching places for teenagers in the non-school hours.

TOOLS FOR TEENS

A Web Resource for Teens. You will announce a new web site for teenagers, www.americasteens.gov. The site provides a gateway to federal and other publicly supported web sites for teens. With this new web site, teens can find information to help them do their homework, pursue a hobby, or choose a career. The site was developed by 17 federal agencies supported by Vice President Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government and the General Services Administration. You will also direct federal agencies to expand educational material for youth on their own websites and to assure that all federally-supported websites for youth comply with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act and relevant federal regulations.

Communication Tips for Teens. HHS will release a guide to help teenagers identify people to whom they can open up and strengthen teen communication with each other, their parents and other caring adults. It will be distributed through community-based organizations and through the National Clearinghouse for Family and Youth.

Youth Summit. The Corporation for National Service, together with two dozen other national organizations, will be hosting a National Youth Summit, entitled "Young People: Partners in Fulfilling the Promise" June 22-25 in Orlando, Florida. Up to 1,000 teens and adults who work with them will attend the summit to build their skills and develop action plans for youth to play a role in meeting the needs of their communities.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

Bruce Reed
Melanne Verveer
Shirley Sagawa
Eric Liu
Ann O'Leary
Sonia Chessen

Meet and Greet Participants

Members of the Cabinet/Administration

Secretary Herman

Secretary Shalala
Director Janice LaChance
Deputy Attorney Eric Holder
Deputy Donald Vereen, ONDCP
Mr. Harris Wofford

Members of Congress

Sen. John Kerry (D-MA)
Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH)
Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX)
Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee (D-TX)
Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA)

Sponsors

YMCA Foundation
Ken Gladdish, National Executive Director
Eden Fisher Durbin, Director, Public Policy
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Doug Nelson, President
Debra Delgado, Senior Associate
William T. Grant Foundation
Karen Hein, Executive Director

Celebrities

Danny Devito & Rhea Perlman

Speaker

Ben Casey, YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas

Families From Video

The Malone Family: Fonda, Donnie, Tameka, Lekeya
The Silcox Family: Deborah, Drew, Dylan
The Bosques-Smith Family: Maria, Anastasia, Khyanna
The Barret Family: William & Betsy Barrett & MaryGrace Hicks

Event Participants:

The First Lady
Ben Casey, Director of Metropolitan Dallas YMCA
Panel Participants

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- YOU and the First Lady proceed to the Blue Room for a meet and greet.
- Melanne Verveer is announced from the Blue Room into the East Room to open the program.
- Opening video is played.
- YOU and the First Lady are announced to the stage accompanied by the families from the video.
- The First Lady makes remarks and introduces YOU.
- YOU make remarks and introduce Ben Casey.
- Ben Casey makes brief remarks.
- YOU thank Ben Casey and depart.

VI. REMARKS

To be provided by speechwriting.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Panel Participants Bios
- Final Agenda and Breakout Sessions

WHSO LAYOUT final

5/1/00 L. Schwartz, S. Kennedy

TEEN CONFERENCE

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

State Floor

Approx. 190 guests/Open Press/Business Attire

10 Social Aides

4 Volunteers

8:30 a.m.	NW gate panelists/pop ups arrive and are met by Mary Ellen McGuire
9:00 a.m.	Panelist/pop up walk through in the East Room Families in video and foundations for blue room greet arrive NW gate met by Heather Howard
9:30 a.m.	Guests arrive East Visitor's Entrance and proceed to grand Foyer for juice and proceed to East Room to be seated
9:30 a.m.	Brief in Map Room
9:40 a.m.	Members of Cabinet and Congress arrive
9:50 a.m.	Blue Room greet
10:15 a.m.	Program begins in East Room
Approx. 10:45 a.m.	POTUS Depart East Room Panels Begin
12:30 p.m.	HRC Depart East Room Guests have lunch on State Floor Lunch - State Floor
1:30 p.m.	Guests depart to breakout sessions away from Mansion

Monday May 1
Approx. 5:00pm

WHCA set up begins

Approx. 5:00pm

Sat Truck parks and powers west side of north portico and runs cable to back of east room window – large monitors are brought into the room and set up stage left and stage right no other set up allowed inside east room at this time for the sat crew.

Tuesday May 2

ALL TOURS CANCELLED

7:30 a.m. Press setup begins.

8:30 a.m. Press set up concludes.

8:30 a.m. Panelists/pop ups arrive Northwest Gate and are met by Mary Ellen McGuire and hold in the West Lobby until all are accounted for.
Contact: Mary Ellen McGuire

9:00 a.m. Families from video and sponsors for greet arrive NW Gate and are escorted to the West Lobby and then once assembled proceed to the Blue Room to get settled for the greet.
Contact: Heather Howard

Panelists/pop ups are escorted from the West Lobby to the East Room for a briefing.
Contact: Mary Ellen McGuire

9:15 a.m. Gate Ready and In Place time.

9:30 a.m. Guests arrive to the East Visitors Gate and proceed State Floor for coffee and juice and are seated in the East Room.
Contact: Shereen Soghier

9:30 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT and THE FIRST LADY** receive briefing in the Map Room.
*Contacts: Shirley Segawa, Melanne Verveer, Ann O'Leary, Bruce Reed, Eric Liu
Sonia Chesson*

9:40 a.m. Members of the Cabinet and Congress arrive and proceed to the Blue Room.
Contact: Wendy Arends and Erica Morris

9:45 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT and THE FIRST LADY** proceed to the Blue Room for a meet and greet.

9:50 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT and THE FIRST LADY** greet the following:

Blue Room Participants

Members of the Cabinet/Administration

Secretary Herman
Secretary Shalala
Secretary Slater
Director Janice LaChance
Deputy Attorney Eric Holder
Deputy Donald Vereen, ONDCP
Mr. Harris Wofford

Members of Congress

Rep. Stephanie Tubbs-Jones

Sponsors

YMCA Foundation
Ken Gladdish, National Executive Director
Eden Fisher Durbin, Director, Public Policy

CASEY Foundation
Patrick McCarthy
Debra Delgado, Senior Associate

William T. Grant Foundation
Karen Hein

Celebrities

Danny Devito & Rhea Perlman

Speaker

Ben Casey, YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas

Families From Video

The Malone Family: Fonda, Donnie, Tameka, Lekeya
The Silcox Family: Deborah, Drew, Dylan
The Bosques-Smith Family: Maria, Anastasia, Khyanna
The Barret Family: William & Betsy Barrett & MaryGrace Hicks

10:10 a.m. Melanne Verveer is announced from the Blue Room into the East Room to open the program.

10:12 a.m. Opening video is played.

10:15 a.m. Following the video, **THE PRESIDENT and THE FIRST LADY** are announced to the stage to honors accompanied by the families from the video.

Family Note: Families proceed to their seats in the front row, The President and First Lady to the stage.

East Room Note: Door to East Room remains open until POTUS departs after program at the top.

Stage set up: 10x24 stage, half moon table with 6 mics and chairs, toast lectern for opening remarks by POTUS, HRC and keynotes on stage right (toast and seats struck when POTUS concludes and departs)

PROGRAM

THE FIRST LADY makes remarks and introduces **THE PRESIDENT**.

THE PRESIDENT makes remarks and introduces Ben Casey.

(Note: Ben Casey comes to stage from his seat in the front row)

Ben Casey make brief remarks.

Aprox.10:45 **THE PRESIDENT** thanks Ben Casey.

(Note: Ben Casey returns to his seat in the front row)

THE FIRST LADY proceeds to the table on stage to begin Panel I.

Panel I Begins (this is at approx at 10:30am)

6 participants including HRC

See Attached.

Panel II switches seats with Panel I , Panel II begins (this is at approx. 11:05)

5 participants including HRC

See Attached.

12:30 p.m. Panel II concludes and **THE FIRST LADY** departs.

Guests go through the lunch buffet in the Cross Hall and proceed to eat in the State Dining Room and the Grand Foyer.

1:30 p.m. Guests finish lunch and proceed to breakout sessions outside the Mansion.

Breakout Session Organization Note: Mary Ellen and her staff will be at the stair bottom directing people to their breakout escort - either west on the Ground Floor to hold until taken to the OEOB or east to the East Portico where they will be taken to the White House Conference Center. (after they all get their cloaks)

SETUP NOTES

GROUND FLOOR

Family Theater: Coat check

First Ladies Hall: Screens between Dip and China

STATE FLOOR

Grand Foyer: Strings and piano for arrivals and lunch
Honors group for Entrance to Panel I

Cross Hall/State Dining Room/Grand Foyer: Luncheon set up

Blue Room: All Furniture removed for meet and greet, a monitor on a table in the south window by the Green Room cabled to East Room for opening video

East Room: 180 chairs, 10x 24 stage at gold curtain steps on front and both sides; half circle table on stage left with 6 OFDR armless chairs; 6 WHCA panel mics at half circle table on stage, 2 OFDR chairs next to toast lectern; lectern at stage right for opening of Panel I to be removed after remarks as noted in layout; 3 WHCA mic wranglers – one for each section for interaction during both panels; WHCA announce from Blue Room; 2 press risers on both sides of cross hall doors with rope & stanchion; folders from Mary Ellen on chairs; video monitors - 1 on each side of the stage

TEEN CONFERENCE SEATING

Stage – at Table **TENT CARDS**

Panel 1

Dr. Jacqueline Eccles
Dr. Jay Giedd
Ms. Susan Bales Karen Pittman
Ms. Rhea Perlman
Mr. Danny Devito

Panel 2

Ms. Laura Sessions Stepp
Mr. Edd Speaker
Dr. Robert Blum
Mr. Geoff Canada
Miss Gabriella Contreras

BY NAME YELLOW:

Stage

The President
Mrs. Clinton

Front Rows (some spill into 2nd rows)

Speaker (1)
Ben Casey

Cabinet (7)

Secretary Shalala
Secretary Herman
Secretary Slater
Director Janice LaChance
Mr. Harris Wofford
Deputy Attorney Eric Holder
Deputy Donald Vereen, ONDCP

Seated throughout Audience

Popups (8)

Dr. Angela Diaz
Miss Emily McDonald
Mr. Edwin Speaker
Ms. Ellen Galinsky
Ms. Judith McHale
Ms. Susan Bales
Mr. Jay Engeln
Dr. Katharine Newman

Center Section

ORANGE GENERAL RESERVED:

Families from video(13)

Malone's: Fonda, Donnie, Tameka, Lekeya
Silcox's: Deborah, Drew, Dylan
Bosques-Smith's: Maria, Anastasia, Khyanna
Barret's: William, Betsy, MaryGrace

Side Sections (1st and 2nd rows at least)

RED GENERAL CARDS – RED CARDS AT GATE

Electeds (6)

Dr. Vernon Gray
Mr. Victor Hernandez
Mr. Patrick O'Connor
Ms. Clarice Chambers
Ms. Nancy Keenan
Mr. William Johnson

BLUE GENERAL CARDS

Meet participants (entering NW gate) (5)

Ken Gladdish
Eden Fisher Durbin
Patrick McCarthy
Debra Delgado
Karen Hein

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON TEENAGERS

Program Draft 5/1/00 pm

- 10:09 **Melanne Verveer** welcomes audience and explains how the program will work, introduces video.
- 10:11 **Opening Video:** Montage of a diverse group of parents and teens speaking about their lives.
- 10:15 **THE PRESIDENT and MRS. CLINTON** announced into room. MRS. CLINTON proceeds to lectern. THE PRESIDENT sits next to lectern. Panel I is already seated on stage.
- 10:16 **MRS. CLINTON** speaks. MRS. CLINTON introduces THE PRESIDENT.
- 10:26 **THE PRESIDENT** speaks. THE PRESIDENT introduces Ben Casey, Dallas YMCA.
- 10:40 **Ben Casey** makes remarks.
- 10:44 **THE PRESIDENT** makes closing remark and departs.
- 10:45 **MRS. CLINTON** introduces topic of panel (who are today's teens and what do they need) and introduces panel members Jacqueline Eccles, Jay Giedd, Karen Pittman, Rhea Perlman and Danny DeVito. She calls on Jacquelynne Eccles to speak first.

The first of two panels this morning will focus on an important question – who are today's teens and what do they need? One thing we do know about teenagers today – they are the most racially and ethnically diverse group of teenagers in our nation's history.

But as we celebrate their diversity, we also know that this group has much in common. The President is fond of quoting a leading geneticist, Dr. Eric Lander who spoke at our Millennium Evening last October. He told us that all human beings have DNA that is 99.9% identical. Isn't that amazing? So it shouldn't surprise us that regardless of race, economic status, or region, families have many of the same concerns.

I have been doing quite a bit of traveling lately and talking to many different families, many different parents of teens. And I am hearing that parents of all backgrounds are worried about violence, and drugs, and the quality of education their children are receiving. And they are a little

bewildered at the changes their preteen and teenage children are going through physically and emotionally.

We have two experts here on the panel who will talk to us about the changes that occur during adolescence. Dr. Jacquelynne Eccles [Eck-les] is a psychology professor and research scientist at the University of Michigan. Much of her work has focused on adolescent development – most recently she has chaired the MacArthur Foundation's Project on Successful Pathways through Middle Childhood.

Dr. Jay Giedd [Geed] is the Chief of Brain Imaging at the Child Psychiatry Branch of the National Institute of Mental Health. He is also a practicing clinician who has written extensively in medical and science journals on the biological basis of behavioral, cognitive and emotional disturbances. He will share with us his recent work on healthy brain development of adolescents.

Let's start with Dr. Eccles.

10:47 **Jacquelynne Eccles** discusses adolescent development, including the stages, peer cues, behavioral pressures, and the need for independence.

10:51 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Jay Giedd, a scientist at the National Institute of Mental Health.

Now let's hear from Dr. Giedd who will help us understand what may be going on in the brains of young teenagers.

10:53 **Jay Giedd** presents his recent research that suggests that an important phase of brain development occurs around puberty and what happens at that time matters and can set the stage for later successes or failures.

10:57 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Angela Diaz, Director of the Mt. Sinai Adolescent Health Center, who will speak from the audience.

Of course, as Dr. Giedd notes, we can only speculate about the ways in which this breakthrough research can help teenagers appreciate that they have a real ability to influence what they will be good at for the rest of their life. What he tells us is intuitively sensible – but also confirms our worst fears that if we don't promote healthy behavior during these formative years, we may never be able to reverse the damage.

It's a lot like what we know about early brain development, which we focused on at a White House Conference in 1997. And it turns out, this period of life may be equally important, but with an important difference –

the teens themselves have a measure of control over their futures that they lacked as babies and toddlers.

Our next speaker, Dr. Angela Diaz [Dee-Azz], works to ensure that teenagers stay healthy. She is the Director of the Mount Sinai School Adolescent Health Center and the Director of Health Services for the Children's Aid Society in New York City. Dr. Diaz, what can you tell us about the health care needs of teens?

10:59 **Angela Diaz** discusses the health care needs of teens she sees in her work and the challenges serving them.

11:02 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Karen Pittman, of the International Youth Foundation.

I have known Karen Pittman for many years – when she was at the Children's Defense Fund promoting an adolescent policy agenda, and later when she agreed to serve as the Director of the President's Crime Prevention Council. She is a sociologist by training and a nationally recognized leader in the field of youth development, who helped to launch America's Promise. She is currently the Senior Vice President of the International Youth Foundation, an organization dedicated to improving conditions and prospects for children and youth worldwide. Karen – help us understand what all teenagers need to develop into successful adults.

11:04 **Karen Pittman** lays out the assets that all teenagers need – a caring adult, healthy habits, safe places, a good education, and the opportunity to give back.

11:08 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Emily McDonald, age 17, who is involved in community service in her hometown in Appalachia. She will speak from the audience.

It's about time we heard from a young person, isn't it? Emily McDonald, who is in our audience today, is seventeen. She grew up in Clarkrange, Tennessee, in Appalachia. As a young child, she was "sponsored" by Save the Children, and benefited from the Head Start program. And now, she is a straight A student, a cheerleader, and a dedicated volunteer with Save the Children, helping to renovate that old Head Start center so it can serve as an afterschool center. Emily, tell us about yourself.

11:10 **Emily McDonald** describes her community, her classmates, her involvement in service, her relationship with her parents and grandmother.

11:13 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Rhea Perlman and Danny DeVito.

Emily, I understand your mother is with you today – Mrs. McDonald, let us congratulate you on raising such a responsible and resourceful young woman.

Our next speakers may not be scientists or researchers, but they are experts – I understand they are the parents of three teenagers. I'm sure much of our audience is familiar with the many films that Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman have starred in, the television characters they created on Taxi and Cheers, and the movies that Danny has produced. But you may not know all the good work they do on behalf of children, most recently as spokespeople for the Afterschool Alliance. Danny and Rhea, what can you tell us about raising responsible and resourceful teenagers?

11:15 **Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman** speak about their experience as parents of teenagers and about the Afterschool Alliance.

11:23 **MRS. CLINTON** comments, thanks panel, and invites panel II to take the stage. Panel I leaves the stage and panel II, consisting of Laura Sessions Stepp, Edd Speaker, Robert Blum, Geoff Canada, and Gabriella Contreras are seated.

I'd like to thank panel I for their insightful comments, and invite panel II to take their places on the stage.

MRS. CLINTON introduces the topic of the second panel – what parents can do to help teens and what communities can do to help teens and parents – and introduces first panelist, Laura Sessions Stepp, author of *Our Last Best Shot* and Washington Post families reporter.

*We will now turn our attention to what parents can do to help their teenage children through adolescence. My good friend, Dr. David Hamburg, who was instrumental in planning this conference and who is one of the nation's leading experts on adolescent development, called our next speaker's recent book, *Our Last Best Shot*, "the best book on adolescence ever written for the general public." Laura Sessions Stepp is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist with Washington Post, but she is here today to share with us what she learned in researching her book, which really is a road map for parents through the challenging teen years. She will then introduce for us our next speakers, who are aptly named Edd and Edwin Speaker and who are featured in a chapter in her book intriguingly entitled "Am I Competent"?*

- 11:28 **Laura Sessions Stepp** outlines what we know about good parenting of teenagers. She then introduces Edd and Edwin Speaker.
- 11:32 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Edd and Edwin Speaker.
- 11:34 **Edd Speaker** discusses his experience as a parent and introduces his son, Edwin, who will speak from the audience.

Edwin Speaker discusses the important influences in his life.

- 11:41 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Robert Blum, University of Minnesota and Add Health study.

I think I know that answer to the question Laura Stepp posed, "Am I Competent?" – clearly Edd and Edwin are not only competent, but examples for us all in overcoming challenges with heart and determination.

Our next speaker, Dr. Robert Blum [Blumm], is the Director of the Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Health at the University of Minnesota, and the co-investigator for the seminal National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health, known as "Add Health." This important research holds important information about the influence of social factors and connections to the health of teenagers. Dr. Blum?

- 11:43 **Robert Blum** discusses research that underscores the importance of teens being connected to their families and the community.

Clearly a close relationship with a parent – like the one Edd and Edwin enjoy – makes a great deal of difference in the health of teens. But we also know, from the YMCA poll and our opening video and, I'm afraid, also from our own experience, that quality time together isn't always easy to achieve. And all too often, it's work that gets in the way.

Our next speaker who is in the audience today, is one of the nation's leading authorities on work and family issues. Ellen Galinsky is the co-founder and president of the Families and Work Institute, which conducts pioneering studies on the ways that jobs and homelife interrelate. Her recent book, Ask the Children, challenged some of the conventional wisdom about children's views of their parents work. Ellen, it is good to see you again. Tell us, what can employers do to help their employees parent teenage children?

- 11:47 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Ellen Galinsky, President of the Work and Family Institute, who will speak from the audience.

11:49 **Ellen Galinsky** speaks about the need for employers to think creatively about ways to help parents of teens connect with their children.

11:52 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Judith McHale, President and COO of Discovery Communications, who will speak from the audience.

For too long our national dialogue about work and family has focused only on parenting young children. We now know how important parents are even in the lives of teenagers about to become adults. Ellen, thank you for your leadership in this effort.

Another area parents are asking for help with is monitoring their teens' television and internet use. As I mentioned earlier, I believe we need a voluntary uniform rating system that will tell parents in a simple and consistent way whether the material their children want to view is appropriate. Until we have such a system in place, we at least have a variety of rating systems to rely on. Unfortunately, many parents don't know about them, and find them confusing and therefore unhelpful.

We also know, from the poll released this morning, that parents think they are supervising their children's internet use, but their teenage children tell a different story. I am hopeful that the Task Force on Tools for Parents and Teens in the Media Age will address this important point.

Our next speaker from the audience will speak about the responsibility of the industry to develop tools for parents to better understand and monitor the new media. Judith McHale is the President and Chief Operating Officer of Discovery Communications and chair of the board of the National Campaign to End Youth Violence. We have asked her to share her views regarding the role of the media.

11:54 **Judith McHale** discusses the media's role in addressing youth violence.

11:57 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Susan Bales, President of the Frameworks Institute, who will speak from the audience.

Another concern that is often brought up about the media is the way young people are depicted – that unrealistic images of women and girls inspire unhealthy dieting and eating disorders; that racial stereotypes abound; that sex and violence are too common and caring and communication too rare.

Our next speaker in the audience today has studied these issues and drawn some interesting conclusions about the implications of the media's

depiction of teens. Susan Bales is the President of Frame Works Institute, a project of the College University Resource Institute, which conducts communications research on social issues. Tell us, Ms. Bales, is there a danger in the media's portrayal of young people today?

11:59 **Susan Bales** discusses research on the media's treatment of teens and how it differs from reality.

12:02 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Geoff Canada, author of *Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun* and founder of the Rheedlan Centers for Children and Families.

One reason, I think, the media has such an influence in our views of youth is that so many adults never come in contact with a young person – a majority of adults have no personal interaction with teenagers whatsoever.

*In contrast, our next speaker has given his life over to helping the children in his community succeed. Geoff Canada is President and CEO of the Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families, and the author of *Fist Stick Knife Gun: A Personal History of Violence in America*. He is a hero to many for his groundbreaking work in Harlem, and is here to tell us what community organizations can do to help especially those children who live in destitute conditions.*

12:04 **Geoff Canada** speaks about the role of community in the life of a teenager, particularly in the inner city.

12:08 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Harvard anthropologist Dr. Katherine Newman, author of *No Shame in My Game: The Working Poor in the Inner City*, *if time permits*.

I can't think of another program that has done such a comprehensive job making sure that the youth they serve have access to all the fundamental resources they need. I also commend you for using AmeriCorps members so creatively – there have been more than 150,000 Americans in AmeriCorps since it was created five years ago, and most of them are involved in meeting the needs of young people – tutoring, mentoring, and organizing them in community service.

Let us consider another topic that is very pertinent to young people today – afterschool and summer jobs. In fact, four out of five youth hold a job at one time or another while they are in school. While some may view paid employment as a way to teach teens important lessons about the value of money and the ethic of work, others worry that teens are spending too

much time on the job, to the detriment of their school work, social relationships, and family connections.

Our next speaker, Harvard Anthropologist Katherine Newman, has studied the experience of low-wage workers in low-income communities. Her book is entitled "No Shame In My Game," and I am eager to hear her perspective on what employers of youth can do to make sure their experience contributes to their future success, instead of ensuring their future failure.

12:10 **Katherine Newman** speaks about the responsibility of employers of youth to do more to help them succeed. [OPTIONAL SPEAKER]

12:13 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Jay Engeln, Principal of the Year, *if time permits*.

A comprehensive approach to helping teens succeed of course demands the involvement of middle and high schools. When I think about the "connectedness" Dr. Blum spoke of, think with dismay about the enormous size of so many of our nation's high schools, where it's too easy for students to become faces in a crowd. I also think about how important it is for parents to be involved in their children's education – isn't it interesting that both parents and teens rated education so high on their list of important issues in the YMCA poll? But so often, middle and high schools offer few avenues for family involvement.

Our next speaker knows something about high school. He is the Met Life/National Association of Secondary School Principals "principal of the year." His school, the William J. Palmer High School in Colorado Springs has a slogan, "Together we can make a difference." Tell us, Mr. Engeln [Eng-el-lin], what do you recommend schools do to "make a difference"?

12:15 **Jay Engeln** discusses the importance of parent involvement in middle and high school. [OPTIONAL SPEAKER]

12:18 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and introduces Gabriella Contreras, age 14.

Ten years ago, I worked on a report by the WT Grant Foundation Commission on Work, Family, and Citizenship. The report made wide-ranging policy recommendations directed at the half of all young people who didn't go on to college. Many of these recommendations – improved school-to-work programs, increased access to college, and expanding opportunities for youth to serve – have been implemented by the Clinton Administration.

This last point, youth service, hasn't gotten the headlines other initiatives have. But it is nonetheless central to our strategy to make service the universal experience of all young Americans, regardless of their background. Research shows that service increases students' sense of responsibility, acceptance of cultural diversity, work orientation, college aspirations, and school achievement. And study after study shows that serving others can be a powerful antidote to feelings of helplessness or alienation.

Our last speaker knows firsthand how service can define and transform a life. Gabriella Contreras is fourteen, but she has been setting an example for others since she was a tiny child. She came to us through Donna Shalala's Girl Power project, a national campaign to encourage girls aged nine to fourteen to make the most of their lives. Gabriella, tell us what young people can do to help themselves and their peers.

12:20 **Gabriella Contreras** speaks about her own experience with youth violence in her community and ways youth can be resources for other youth.

12:23 **MRS. CLINTON** comments and provides closing comments. Mentions breakouts and lunch, invites satellite downlinks to continue talking and let us know what they conclude.

I'm sorry we don't have time for more discussion. This morning's program has certainly given us a great deal to think about. I'm sure that this afternoon's breakout sessions will allow for lively debates. We will say goodbye now to our friends who are participating via satellite. Please proceed to the State Dining Room for lunch.

12:30 **Break for lunch.**

**THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON TEENAGERS:
RAISING RESPONSIBLE AND RESOURCEFUL YOUTH
May 2, 2000**

The President and First Lady today will host the first-ever White House Conference on Teenagers. The conference will include parents, teens, policy makers and other experts who will discuss the importance of the teenage years in the social and intellectual development of children. Like the White House Conference on Early Learning and Childhood Development in 1997, today's gathering will underscore some of the common misconceptions that parents have about the teenage years and will offer strategies for raising responsible and resourceful youth. Conference participants will highlight ways in which parents, schools, businesses, the media and others in the larger community can support children during this critical stage of life.

The President and First Lady will announce several new steps the Administration is taking to better understand the teenage years and provide the support that America's teens need.

TODAY'S TEENS AND THEIR PARENTS

Report Shows Good Signs for Today's Teens and Indicates that Parental Involvement is Key in Raising Responsible and Resourceful Youth. The President will release a new report by the President's Council of Economic Advisers, *Teenagers and their Parents in the 21st Century: An Examination of Trends in Teen Behavior and the Role of Parental Involvement*. This report outlines positive trends for today's teenagers, including increases in student achievement, college access, and participation in community service, as well as declining rates of pregnancy, teen suicides, and homicides. The report concludes that teenagers whose parents are engaged and involved in their lives are more likely to excel in school and avoid risk behaviors. The report also makes clear that many challenges continue to confront America's teens: college opportunities remain more elusive for Hispanic youngsters and those from low-income families; the number of teens who smoke and eat poorly is increasing; and, in states where teens have greater access to guns, teen suicide and homicide rates are on the rise.

Poll Shows Teens Want More Time with Parents, Parents Worried About Outside Influences on Teens. A YMCA of the USA poll commissioned for the White House Conference and conducted by Global Strategy Group shows that, despite the positive trends highlighted in the CEA report, parents are anxious about the well-being of their teenagers. They rate drugs, alcohol, and violence among their top concerns. By contrast, teenagers rate "not having enough time together" with parents and education as their top issues. The poll reveals that: many families are unable to eat meals together more than a few times a week; many teens watch television and surf the Internet without parental supervision; and many parents wish they had more quality time with their teens.

New Brain Research Suggests that Early Adolescence is a Critical Time of Development. The First Lady will highlight preliminary research conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health indicating that the cognitive portion of the brain goes through a critical second wave of development just before puberty. Although the total size of the brain is already 95% of its adult size by the first grade, the new research shows that the gray matter of the brain thickens as the

brain cells grow extra connections. This process peaks at about 11 years in girls and 12 years in boys, after which excess connections are “pruned,” resulting in a thinning of the gray matter. This exciting new finding implies that the early years of adolescence are pivotal years for determining the make-up of the adult brain.

TOOLS FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

Ensuring Workplaces that Do Not Discriminate Against Parents. The President, today, will sign an Executive Order to bar discrimination against parents in the federal workplace. This Executive Order mirrors the “Ending Discrimination Against Parents Act of 1999,” which the President announced in his 1999 State of the Union address. Legislation was introduced on November 10, 1999, by Senators Dodd and Kennedy. The Order would bar discrimination against parents in all aspects of employment, including recruitment, referral, hiring, promotions, discharge, and training. The Order would also prohibit employers in the Executive Branch from acting on assumptions that parents, or those with parental responsibilities, cannot satisfy the requirements of a particular position. The Order would not interfere with an employer’s ability to select workers; it would simply ensure that workers are not discriminated against simply because they are parents. Guidance on this Executive Order will be provided by the Office of Personnel Management.

Urging Support for Parents to Spend Time with Their Teens. Research to be discussed at the Conference shows that teens whose parents are active and engaged in their lives are more likely to avoid risky behavior and to do better in school. Today, the President and First Lady will announce a number of steps to help parents and teens spend more time together:

- **“Time with Your Teens Campaign”.** The President and First Lady will announce a new public education campaign to raise awareness about the importance of parent-teen time, including family mealtime. The National Partnership for Women and Families, along with the Families and Work Institute, will organize a national coalition to develop a public education campaign around this issue. The campaign will highlight the importance of business support for family time, the need for continued parental involvement in middle school and high school, and a challenge to parents and teens to make more time for one another.
- **Family Meal Time for Federal Workers.** In the federal workplace, the Office of Personnel Management will raise awareness among parents of teenagers about family-friendly tools that they can use, including flexible work schedules, job sharing and the use of leave, in order to make family time a priority. In addition, OPM will encourage agencies to provide information about teen development and teen issues at the workplace. Agencies may also hold seminars and establish support groups for parents of teenagers.
- **Expansion of FMLA.** The President and the First Lady will also renew their call for Congress to pass an expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act to allow eligible workers an additional 24 hours of leave to meet family responsibilities, such as parent-teacher conferences.

Task Force on “Navigating the New Media Age”. Today, the First Lady will announce a public-private effort to provide tools for parents and teens to find resources through the media and to help parents monitor their teens’ use of the media. The task force plans to complete its work within six months and will: establish an Internet site that provides a one-stop information site for parents of teenagers, including a newly developed federal effort, “Parenting Resources in the 21st Century” www.parentingresources.ncjrs.org; work with the media and entertainment industry to develop one web-site where parents can find comprehensive information on current media ratings systems; establish a portal for teenagers that would include non-commercial, teenager-friendly resources on the Internet; and provide guidance to local communities on how to set up one-stop information centers that list services, hotlines, and community opportunities to teenagers and their parents through toll-free numbers and local web sites.

The following partners are members of this task force: Center for Media Education, American Psychological Association, America’s Promise, Children’s Defense Fund, National Network for Youth, United Way of America, and GetNetWise.

Tips for Parents. Parents want to know how they can best nurture and raise their children to avoid risky behaviors, including drug, alcohol and tobacco use, sex, and violence. For the first time, a coalition of prevention campaigns has joined forces with the federal government to offer strategies for parents. *Parents Matter: Tips for Raising Teenagers* was jointly produced by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the National Campaign Against Youth Violence, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, the U.S. Department of Education, in partnership with the Afterschool Alliance, will release the Afterschool Parent Action Kit to help parents identify, create or improve afterschool programs in their communities in order to provide safe and enriching places for teenagers in the non-school hours.

TOOLS FOR TEENS

A Web Resource for Teens. The President will announce a new web site for teenagers, www.americasteens.gov. The site provides a gateway to federal and other publicly supported web sites for teens. With this new web site, teens can find information to help them do their homework, pursue a hobby, or choose a career. The site was developed by 17 federal agencies supported by Vice President Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government and the General Services Administration. The President will also direct federal agencies to expand educational material for youth on their own websites and to assure that all federally-supported websites for youth comply with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act and relevant federal regulations.

Communication Tips for Teens. As part of this conference, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will release a guide to help teenagers identify people to whom they can open up and strengthen teen communication with each other, their parents and other caring adults. It will be distributed through community-based organizations and through the National Clearinghouse for Family and Youth.

FOLLOW-UP TO TEEN CONFERENCE

Youth Summit. The Corporation for National Service, together with two dozen other national organizations, will host a National Youth Summit, entitled "Young People: Partners in Fulfilling the Promise," June 22-25 in Orlando, Florida. Up to 1,000 teens and adults who work with them will attend the summit to build their skills and develop action plans for young people to play a role in meeting the needs of their communities.

Leadership on Reinventing the American High School to Better Serve Teens. Over 1,000 teachers, principals, policymakers and parents will gather in Washington, D.C. from June 14-16th to attend a "Reinventing High School" conference hosted by U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley. All across America, millions of young people are coming of age and are entering high schools in record numbers. In the next ten years, the number of high school graduates will increase by seventeen percent. If America's high schools are to be ready to prepare all of these young people for the 21st century, many experts are rapidly coming to the conclusion that the American high school, as we know it, needs to be reinvented. This conference will explore options for reforming American high schools. It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Southern Regional Education Board, Jobs for the Future, Sonoma State University, the California Department of Education, and the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 2, 2000

**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE FIRST LADY
AT THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON TEENAGERS:
RAISING RESPONSIBLE AND RESOURCEFUL YOUTH**

The East Room

10:45 A.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Good morning, and please be seated, and welcome to the White House. We have been looking forward to this conference for nearly a year now as we have talked with and explored all the ways that we can raise resourceful and responsible young people. And many people have asked me why a conference on teenagers. Why make teenagers the focus of a fully day's discussion at the White House.

Well, I think that as we just saw in the video -- and I want to thank and applaud the families that participated in that video -- many of us are concerned about what we can do as parents and as citizens, as employers or educators, as public officials or community leaders, to give more support to teenagers and their families.

The President and I speak, of course, with great authority -- (laughter) -- having just graduated from being the parents of a teenager to being the parents of a 20-year-old and having survived it. But, believe me, this conference is more than just a trip down memory lane or an exercise in nostalgia for us. We believe strongly that our young people deserve our very best efforts.

I want to thank many of the people who are here today who have been part of putting this conference together, but more than that, for the work that they have done over so many decades. First, let me thank David and Betty Hamburg who are here. (Applause.) David and Betty, in many ways, inspired this conference.

I began working with them more than 20 years ago now, and I can think of no people who are more dedicated to helping all young people, whether they're in the forgotten or not forgotten half, whether they are going through great transitions or turning points in their lives. And I think many of us in this room owe both David and Betty a great deal of gratitude. I would like to ask them to stand so we could thank them both. (Applause.)

Also with us today is Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Secretary Donna Shalala, Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary Alexis Herman, National Service Corps CEO Harris Wofford, the Director of Personnel Management Janis LaChance, the Deputy Drug Czar Vereen, Annie E. Casey Foundation, the W.T. Grant Foundation and the YMCA of the USA are all sponsors and supporters of this conference.

Now, all of us are here because we believe there is no group of Americans more full of promise or potential. But we also believe there is no group of Americans more in need of the support, guidance and committed efforts of all of us than today's teenagers.

Ask any teen -- and I do -- I've been privileged to speak to so many in sort of personal and informal ways and in more formal settings. Just last week at a high school town hall in Watkins Glen, New York, where the teens lined up and asked all kinds of questions. If you ask teens and you listen to teens, you can hear, directly and indirectly, their voices telling us that growing up today feels tougher than ever before. I happen to think that's right. I think it's harder being a teen today than it was, certainly, when I was one so many years ago.

But I also think that the wonder and hope and exciting choices that teenagers face in their lives are too often becoming times of great stress, alienation, and confusion. And that, too, has always been part of the teen experience, but the environment and context in which that occurs is more dangerous than ever before.

And if it's tough to be a teenager today, it's probably even tougher to be a parent. More and more parents are working outside our homes; they're struggling to do right by their families and their jobs. And I have met so many mothers and fathers who tell me that they just feel inadequate and anxious about navigating those teenage years -- more so than they certainly felt when their kids were younger.

We're all worried about the choices our teenagers make, about how the best-laid plans for a bright future can disintegrate with a single bad decision to drink, to try drugs, to drive too fast, to trust the wrong person. Parents are worried about the movies their children are seeing, the web sites they're visiting, the music they're listening to. And there's a lot of worry that all those heart-to-heart talks and those efforts to communicate, which are sometimes so awkward and difficult, about values and good behavior are getting drowned out by a popular culture filled with gratuitous sex and violence.

In our two panels this morning, and in the breakout sessions this afternoon, we will tackle the challenges facing today's teenagers and their parents. But it won't just be a session for everyone to share their worries. More importantly, we're going to be highlighting some of the latest research about teen years and the innovative ways that Americans can work together to ensure that every teenager has a safe passage to adulthood.

Three years ago, in this room, we held the first White House Conference on Early Learning and Childhood Development. We sought to raise awareness about the critical growth that takes place in the brain during the first three years of life, and to explore the implications of this knowledge on parenting, education and child care. In many ways, that conference and today's conference can be viewed as bookends, because now we're beginning to learn that the brain goes through yet another, and equally critical, growth spurt during the early teenage years. Though the research is still preliminary, scientists now believe that this is the time when all the hard-wiring of the brain takes place, when a teenager's intellectual, emotional and physical capacities are developed for a lifetime.

Now, I remember the very wise advice I got from a friend of mine, when my daughter was very small and she was raising three teenagers. And she said, you know, the two times in a child's life that seem most similar to me are those toddler years and the teenage years. It's when we need to give so much more attention to our children. And now, we didn't know, back when I heard this advice about 19 or so years ago, that there would be brain research to support that anecdotal experience that parents had. But I remembered that so often during the times when our own daughter was growing up -- that even if your teenager or your preteen doesn't want you following her or him around, in many ways -- think of that toddler metaphor -- they need you around. And it's hard for a lot of parents to figure out exactly how to do that.

This research has, therefore, important implications for parents, because teenagers need the guidance and support of their parents more than ever. It is still difficult for many of us to remember that teenagers want our attention. After all, this is the time when the real or the imaginary "keep out" signs start appearing on closed bedroom doors, when many of our children would rather spend two hours talking to a friend on the phone than 10 minutes talking to their mother or father in person. But what we are learning is that for all their declarations of independence, America's teenagers still want and need the everyday love, involvement and discipline of their parents.

Today, we are releasing a new poll, commissioned by the YMCA, which found that parents are still the most important adults in their teenagers' lives. More than three out of four teens say they still turn to their parents in times of trouble. In fact, while parents -- and this is so interesting -- while parents list the threat of drugs and alcohol as their top concerns about their teens, teens, themselves, list education and "not having enough time" with their parents as their top concern.

So it's time that we respond to these concerns, and many of us have been struggling with ways to do that. I believe one of the biggest casualties of modern life has been family time, especially time during meals, when parents and children can check out of their busy schedules and check in with each other. Before our daughter left for college, the three of us made it a priority to share at least one meal together a day.

With our hectic schedules, it wasn't always easily and, occasionally, wasn't possible. But we sure tried. And when we were able to, that hour or half-hour in the small kitchen of the private quarters upstairs in the White House was truly my favorite part of the day, because Bill and I were very convinced that we wanted to convey to our daughter a simple message, one that we hoped she would carry away to college: that whenever she does need someone to talk to or ask for advice, or just wants to say hello, we will be available and eager to listen.

I also know, though, the experience of hanging around, waiting for a sighting. (Laughter.) You know, when we were first in Washington, in the first term, a lot of people -- some of the pundits and others -- would say, well, the Clintons don't go out, they don't socialize enough, you know, why aren't they going to Camp David enough. And those are people who had forgotten or never had a teenager. And when you have one in your home, you want to hang around with the hope that just maybe they'll deign to say something to you. Occasionally, that works, but not always. And we hope this conference will inspire even more parents to stay involved in their teenagers' lives and to open new lines of communication.

I'm very pleased to announce the National Partnership for Women and Families, along with the Families and Work Institute, will lead a new campaign to promote the importance of spending time with your teenagers.

Now, there are some lessons we parents have to learn about this. That is not the time when you unload every piece of worldly advice you have stored up for your entire lifetime, it is not the time when you lecture and fill up the space with all the words that you want to fill. These are things that I've learned from experience.

It is, instead, a time when you hopefully are there to inspire the communication that is two-way and principally coming from your teen. The Time With Teens campaign will challenge parents to take stock of their own lives and work habits and look for ways to make more time for their children.

It will challenge businesses to offer more flexible work schedules and policies for parents, and it will challenge churches and synagogues, and mosques and schools, and health care agencies and all community organizations to create more opportunities for families to spend

time together.

But we have to do more than just raise awareness among parents. We have to give parents the tools we all need to stay involved in our children's lives. That's why we're also launching a new White House Task Force on Navigating the New Media Age. Comprised of members from both the public and private sectors, this task force will find ways to transform the tools of the media age, namely the Internet, into tools for parents. The task force will develop two new Internet portals -- one that will link parents to information and advice on raising teens, from health and safety to child care and education; and a second to link teens to a variety of age-appropriate resources on the Internet.

We also recognize it is more difficult for parents to keep track of what teens are watching and learning on TV or on their home computer. The YMCA poll you'll hear about found that six out of 10 teenagers are watching television without parental supervision, while 45 percent of all teens say they surf the Internet on their own.

You know, when we only had one TV in the home, and you had to fight with your parents and your brothers and sisters to figure out which one of the three stations you were going to watch, it was a lot easier for parents to supervise what their children were watching. Now we have so many opportunities for kids to see things without any parental supervision, or even without an older brother or sister around saying, that's stupid, or how dumb that is, trying to interject some reality into the world that the media conveys to our kids.

We also know that the V-chip is now in effect, and I strongly urge parents -- particularly of young kids, but also of teenagers -- to learn how to program that V-chip and to use it.

There are several media rating systems in place to help parents determine the appropriateness of the shows their children watch. But with so many different systems, parents must hunt for the information needed to decode these various ratings. That's why we will ask the task force to work with the entertainment and media industries to create a single web site to help parents make sense of all the various rating systems, and use them to monitor their children's interactions with the media. I hope eventually, we will get to a uniform system of ratings, so that what is used on the video shows, is used on the movies, is used on the TV, is used across the board.

This is only a temporary step, the web site. But I renew, therefore, my challenge to the entertainment industry. Let's create a voluntary, uniform rating system so that all parents can better decide what's appropriate and what is not appropriate for their children to see.

The challenges before us are great, and the time between childhood and adulthood, as Bill and I can attest, is all too short. But if there is one message we hope all Americans will take away from this conference, it is that each of us has the power to make a difference in every teenager's life. And it is not just a task for parents. The research and our own experience shows that oftentimes, it is a teacher or a coach, a minister or an employer, a neighbor or another relative who can provide the mentoring and the stability that every young person needs. And sometimes during a rocky period in a teen's life, it may be somebody outside of a parent who can be turned to with good advice and suggestions.

So it is not just a conference aimed at teens and their parents, it's really a conference for our entire country; to be committed; to make what is biologically a disorienting time for our teens and a time of exploration, a confusing time -- to make it more of an opportunity and a real journey to self-discovery; to take a time of peril and turn it into a time of promise.

We have a lot of experts and, certainly, we have teens and parents, as well -- we're going to be talking about what has worked for them. And it will be a challenge to us. But when I speak to groups of teenagers, I always start by telling them how proud I am of the way that they are coping with their lives, because the great, vast majority of our kids are good kids.

That is not the message that we often receive on the media, where we only see the stereotypes and the negative depictions. And a lot of these kids are doing the very best they can. In fact, the flip side of our concern is that some of them take their lives so seriously and strive for such perfection that the teen years are a time of even heightened misery and anxiety because they don't think they're measuring up.

So we have got to do a better job in sending a message to our kids that we value them, we love them, we care about them, and that's why we want to be as involved in their lives as possible. So let me now introduce my co-parent -- (laughter) -- and someone who has been deeply committed to the young people of our country, the President of the United States. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you and good morning. I want to join with Hillary in welcoming you to the White House, and thanking all of you for coming. I thank the foundations that have helped us. And thank you, David Hamburg. I still remember when we worked on a report about the developmental needs of young adolescents back in the late '80s, in which we recommended, among other things, that there ought to be community service in all of our schools -- something that we're finally getting around to.

I thank all of those who are here. I see so many people out here in this audience who have done so much to help our young people, our teenagers, live better lives. I see one of the founders of the City Year program in Boston. I see a man who has adopted a huge number of children, along with his wife, and personally made sure that they got through their teenage years. There are many, many stories here. I'm grateful to all of you.

I'm very grateful to Secretary Shalala and Secretary Herman, and our National Service Chairman, Senator Harris Wofford; and Deputy Attorney General Holder, and Janice LaChance, and all the others who are here from the administration -- the Deputy Director of our Drug Office, Donald Vereen. And thank you, Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones. I thank you all for what you are doing.

I want to thank the panelists, and those who will come on afterward. And I think we ought to give one more hand to the families that were in the film, that walked in with Hillary and me. They did a great job. (Applause.)

You know, we've worked very hard on these family issues for a long time, and Hillary has done so for 30 years. But the way I see this as President, as well as a parent, looking ahead to the kind of America we're trying to build in the new century -- when I became President, we had to worry about whether everybody who wanted or needed a job could get one. And that was very important. And the dignity of work is very important to families. It helps to define the shape of family life in ways that are by and large positive.

I'll never forget once when I was governor, I had a panel of former welfare recipients that were in the work force, and one of my colleagues asked the lady from my state, said, well, what's the best thing about having a job. And she said, the best thing about it is when my boy goes to school and they say, what does your mama do for a living, he can give an answer.

But, by the same token, we live in a country that's very good at creating jobs, but is not as good at providing family supports; in which people are busier and busier and busier; and in which virtually everybody has some trouble balancing work and family during the period of the child's life. Even parents who are staying at home have trouble doing it.

And it is a problem that is more severe for single parents and people that have more than one job or people that have trouble getting around. It's a problem that's more severe for

people that work for very modest incomes. But I don't think I know any parents who are working who have not had some periods in their lives when they worried whether they were letting their kids down because they weren't spending enough time with them; or whether there were too many forces out there that were kind of undermining that.

And one of the things that I have learned, in ways large and small over an unfortunately increasingly elderly existence -- (laughter) -- is that everybody has got a story, everybody. And every child has a spark inside. And I believe that everyone has a role to play and ought to be given a chance. And as important as work is -- and I say that coming from a family of workaholics -- the most important work that society does is still to raise children. And if that work is done well, the rest of it pretty well takes care of itself.

And so we're here, basically, to do all the things that Hillary said. I think when a tragedy befalls a child, or a child is involved in a tragedy -- a school shooting, or this terrible incident at the Washington Zoo -- it throws it up in large relief. But I think that one of the things we ought to do in beginning this conference is to take a more balanced view. And I want to be very brief because I want you to have the maximum amount of time with the keynote speaker and with the panelists. But I think it's important that we have a balanced view of what teenage life is like today.

And I asked the Council of Economic Advisors to actually get me a statistical portrait of teenage America. And here is a brief summary. The good news is that the teenagers are far healthier, more prosperous, and look forward to more promising lives than ever before in our history. The economic rewards of education are at an all-time high. Teens have responded by completing high school and enrolling college at record rates.

Last year, for the first time in the history of the country, the high school graduation of African Americans and the white majority was almost statistically identical. The dropout rate among Hispanic young people is still too high, but that's largely explained, I think, by the fact that we have still a very large number of Hispanic children in our schools who are first-generation immigrants whose first language is not English, and they come from families that are struggling to make ends meet, and very often they drop out to go to work still. But we're making progress there, as well.

More teenagers than ever before volunteering to serve through community service. Many harmful behaviors are actually on the decline, including youth violence, homicide, suicide, teen pregnancy, and, in the last couple of years, drug use. That's the good news.

The report also highlights some significant challenges. There are still significant opportunity gaps between white students and students of color. Teen smoking, drug use and pregnancy are still far too high. And despite a marked decline in teen homicide over the past few years, still far too many communities are scarred by gun violence.

Interestingly enough, statistically the Council of Economic Advisers found that gun-related teen deaths from deliberate acts and from accidents are highly correlated with gun ownership and possession rates. In states with fewer guns in fewer households, there are fewer gun deaths.

Perhaps the most empowering finding in the new report is the extents to which parents have the opportunity to guide their teenagers properly. Sitting down to dinner can have an enormously positive impact. The report found that teenagers who had dinner with -- listen to this: The report found that teenagers that had dinner with their parents five nights a week are far more likely to avoid smoking, drinking, violence, suicide and drugs. This holds true for single-parent, as well as two-parent families, across all income and racial groups. Now, obviously if that is not possible, and sometimes it's not possible, then it's really important to find some way to fill that gap, but it's a stunning statistical finding.

For the past seven years, the First Lady and I have worked with our administration to try to support parents' efforts to raise healthy, hopeful and responsible children. I'd also like to acknowledge the invaluable efforts of Vice President and Mrs. Gore, who have had -- even before he joined me, they were sponsoring a family conference every year in Tennessee to deal with these issues. It's really one of the most astonishing, consistent commitments I believe in the country. And they've done a world of good and I'm very grateful to them.

I'll always be proud that the first bill I signed as President was the Family and Medical Leave Act, a law that now has given more than 20 million Americans the opportunity to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave without losing their jobs. And I remember when I signed it, it had previously been vetoed on the theory that it would hurt the economic growth of the country. If that's what it was designed to do, it's been a very poor failure. (Laughter.)

What it has done is to prove that it's good economics to balance work and family; that the more parents can succeed at home, the more free they are, psychologically, to be productive at work; and we ought to do more.

I have asked the Congress to include more firms in the Family and Medical Leave law and to expand the purposes for which people can take family leave. We have also tried to give states the flexibility to use funds in federal accounts to help to finance paid leave. We've worked hard on this, and I think it's very important that we recognize that the United States has done a great job at creating jobs, but we still give far less support to the responsibility of balancing work and family than virtually every other industrialized country in the world. And it is very important to do that.

We've also worked hard to turn teenagers away from unhealthy lives, toward healthy futures. The rate of drug use has been cut, in part by the powerful antidrug messages that have been broadcast; and some of you here have helped us with that. We have done our best to engage the tobacco industry in what has been a fairly epic and sometimes frustrating struggle to reduce teen smoking. We made the single largest investment in children's health care since Medicaid was created. And we're working to get more of our kids -- and increasingly, I hope, this year, their parents -- enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program. And we're working to make our schools safer.

I think that we also need comprehensive strategies to stem violence both in and out of schools. Our program would dramatically expand quality after-school programs. When I started, we had \$1 million dollars for after-school programs; then we went to \$20 million; then we went to \$200 million. This year we've got \$400 million in after-school programs. And I've proposed \$1 billion, and if we pass it, we'll be able to say that every child, at least in every troubled neighborhood in the United States of America, can be in an after-school program. This is a big deal, and I hope you will support it. (Applause.)

I also want to say a word of thanks to all those who have supported AmeriCorps, including City Year and its other components. We've now had more than 150,000 young people earning money for college while serving in their communities. And we're trying to get more and more people to start earlier, to get high school kids, junior high school kids, involved in community service.

Maryland has become the first state in America to require community service as a condition of a high school diploma. And listen to this: The study found that teens who participate in service projects in their communities are 75 percent less likely to drop out of school -- because they're connected in a way that I think is profoundly important.

Hillary talked about the work we're doing with the industry to give parents the tools to protect their children in the new media age. I do think we need a voluntary system that goes

across TV, movies and video games. If we can find some way to develop that, it would make a lot of sense. There's a lot of information coming at parents -- you know, I try to sort it all out when I see it. And I think it would be better if there were -- it's almost like you need a dictionary to explain the differences in the TV ratings and movie ratings and the video game ratings, so we have to find some way this can be made more usable.

And today, I want to just mention two things that we're trying to do to help parents and their teenagers. First, I'm signing an Executive Order to prohibit discrimination against parents in the work force of the federal government. (Applause.) Believe it or not, there are still some employers who are reluctant to hire or to promote employees who have children at home. Some of you may have experienced this yourselves. The goal of this order simply says, no glass ceiling for parents. The job they're doing at home is more important, anyway, and if they can do your job, you ought not to stop them.

Second, I am pleased to announce that our National Campaign Against Youth Violence, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and Tobacco-Free Kids, and the national government have teamed up to produce a comprehensive guide to help parents support their teenagers through this crucial and often difficult developmental period.

Now, I want to introduce our keynote speaker now, and say I'm sorry that I can't stay for the rest of the day, but after he speaks I'll have to leave. But let me say that I want to thank you for coming, again. I want to thank so many of you here for a lifetime of commitment. People ask me all the time, why are we focusing on these things when all the indicators are good and things are going better. This is the time to be thinking about -- I will say again -- how we can deal with the significant challenges of this country. And anybody that thinks that we've done everything we need to do to help the parents with teenagers, hasn't had teenagers and hasn't been around lately.

It seems to me that if we can't deal with these big social issues now, when we're prosperous, when we're doing well; if we can't strengthen the bonds of our community now, when will we ever get around to doing it. That's why we're here. (Applause.)

I want to introduce a person who embodies much of the good that's going on to help parents through having the village do its part -- in the First Lady's words -- to raise our children. Ben Casey is the President of the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas. He has degrees in psychology and counseling from UCLA and Chapman College. He currently oversees programs -- listen to this -- 145 program centers that serve a quarter of all the families in the greater Dallas region. We've asked him to speak to us today about his extensive experience with teens, the wise new poll which also has some important findings about the way teens and parents view their communication and time together.

And let me just finally say, Mr. Casey, as I bring you up, every minute I have ever spent with young people, as President and before, but especially as President, has reaffirmed to me how special they are, what enormous potential they have. Even the ones that can't make it, really want to and wish they could. And what a profound responsibility we have. And I want to honor you, sir, because you spend every day trying to make sure we don't lose a single one. Thank you. (Applause.)

MR. CASEY: Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, and distinguished guests. The teen years should be some of the best years in a person's life. Unfortunately, for more and more young people, they are becoming the most difficult years of their lives. One thing is certain: They are the critical years in that they serve as the basic platform from which the adult is eventually shaped.

For those of you today that are here that are teenagers, I'm going to let you in on a secret:

While you may think that some adults look down on you, the truth is that almost all of us here today see ourselves still in teen images. We're always a little surprised to see this older person looking back at us from the mirror. (Laughter.)

We have all gathered here today to address the special needs of today's teens. Pressures from school and family and friends can be overwhelming for many. This generation faces unique challenges that we must all do our part to help ensure their success.

It's been my privilege to work with young people through the YMCA for 34 years of the 150 years the Y has been committed to community service. These young people have honored me with their trust. They have shared with me their most intimate concerns, their aspirations, and their life challenges.

As they struggle to gain the experience and the wisdom to mature, it's clear that they are in need of support from adults in their lives. There's a critical need for an adult to care and take the time to listen to our teens.

I still have a vivid memory of Tom, a young man I met at a YMCA mountain camp. One day, he asked if he could talk to me privately, and he confided to me that he was considering suicide. When I asked why, he said that he could not live up to his father's expectations, and he could not live with the shame of disappointing his father.

I arranged a meeting, and after talking, we learned that Tom's father only wanted him to have the confidence to reach for the stars, not necessarily, as Tom had thought, to become a doctor or a lawyer. Tom did go on to succeed in the arts. And until his father's death, there was no father more proud of his son.

Communication is the key to developing the relationships teens and parents need to effectively solve problems together. For this conference, the YMCA of the U.S.A. has conducted a survey to gauge the effectiveness of communication efforts between parents and their teens.

It doesn't surprise me that in almost every case, parents have a higher perception of how effective they are in sharing their values and beliefs than the teenage daughters and sons. It's for this reason that the YMCA has launched a nationwide campaign to serve more teens and their families. Our goal is to serve one in five teens over the next five years.

What we have found in our youth and teen programs in Dallas, is that today's parents have less family time than their parents did when they were growing up. Communication has always been difficult; but now that the majority of parents have full-time jobs and live a fast-paced life, they even have less time for their teens. We have to look for innovative new ways to solve this problem.

In order to cut down on the time away from home, the Dallas Y has initiated a partnership with a grocery store and pharmacy to allow parents to pick up their groceries, dry cleaning and pharmacy items at the YMCA, at the same time as picking up their children from our programs. Our only requirement is that they must go home, turn off the television, have dinner together as a family. To facilitate family conversations, the YMCA distributes weekly appropriate stories, with themes for discussion, for these family dinners.

We started this program in response to a working mom's anxiety about not having time for evening parenting classes that were being offered by the Y. She shared her overwhelming daily schedule of commuting, work and errands, that left her exhausted at the end of every day. We realized that family meal time, as you heard earlier, is quickly disappearing, and the time parents have to spend with their teens can be dominated by logistics -- did you do your homework? Have you cleaned your room? Little time remains for quality conversation, to share concerns, feelings and values.

Today, through our panelists and other experts that we have with us, we'll learn that teens must be a priority. How can parents learn to communicate their values and make the time to be a greater part of their teen's lives? How can teens express their feelings in a way that the parents understand? This is what today is all about.

There's a quote by H. Jackson Brown, Jr., I'd like to share with, particularly, parents. He said, "Live that so when your children think of fairness and integrity, they think of you." I believe in this generation of young people. I know they are capable of carrying us into the next millennium and beyond. But first, we must learn to listen to each other. Thank you very much.
(Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you so much, and I really appreciate your not only sharing the results of your survey, but even more importantly the results of your many, many years of work with young people. And we have some terrific people who are going to be here throughout the day, and we're going to get to as many as we possibly can.

I want to get right into this panel, and the topic is: Who Are Today's Teens, And What Do They Need? We have some very impressive panel members, and they're going to share with us who are these people we call teenagers. We know they're the most racially and ethnically diverse group of teenagers in our nation's history. We also know that they have much in common with one another.

The President is fond of quoting Dr. Eric Lander, who spoke at a Millennium Evening that we held last October, who told us that all human beings have DNA that is 99.9 percent identical. Now, sometimes when we look at teenagers, we think they're a different species, but they're not. They are just like us. (Laughter.) And it should not, therefore, be surprising that they share many of the same concerns.

And many of the parents are bewildered at how quickly their preteens and teenage children are growing up these days. They seem to be more mature physically, and the way that they act. And we have two experts here on the panel who will talk to us about the changes that occur during adolescence. And I would like to start with Dr. Jacqueline Eccles, who is a psychology professor and research scientist at the University of Michigan. Much of her work has focused on adolescent development. Recently, she chaired the McArthur Foundation Project on Successful Pathways Through Middle Childhood.

She will be followed by Dr. J. Giedd, the Chief of Brain Imaging at the Child Psychiatry Branch of the National Institute of Mental Health. He's also a practicing clinician who has written extensively in medical and science journals on the biological basis of behavioral, cognitive and emotional disturbances. And he will share with us his recent work on healthy brain development of adolescents.

So let us begin with Dr. Eccles.

DR. ECCLES: Thank you very much, and I am delighted to be here. Adolescence begins with the onset of puberty and ends with the transition into adulthood.

For much of the world, this period is rather short, lasting two to three years. Here and in other Western industrialized countries, the period has grown to as long as 15 years, because of the time needed to train for successful employment in our complex and highly technological societies.

I will focus my comments today, however, on the years between 10 and 16, when most of our young people are still in school and living at home. It is also our last, best chance to prepare our children adequately for healthy, happy and productive lives.

Early adolescence, the years from 10 to 14, is one of the most labile periods in the life span. Rapid changes occur on all levels. This period is initiated by major changes in the hormonal system, leading to rapid changes in body morphology. Together, these two biological changes can increase emotionality and interest in sexuality.

They also affect the way adults interact with our youth in both positive and negative ways. Some adults see these changes as evidence of increasing maturity and respond with encouragement, support and excitement. Adolescents thrive when surrounded with such adults. Other adults see these changes as a threat and respond with hostility, tighter controls and other unsupportive behaviors, alienating the very young people who are in their charge.

Rapid changes also occur at the social level. We require most of our teenagers to make a major school transition, moving from early elementary school into junior high school or middle school. Unfortunately, the nature of many of these schools leads to a decrease in close adult contact, and increases in both the segregation of our youth into peer-oriented groups, and the alienation of youth from their schools and the larger society. This shift can be further exacerbated with the later transition into high school.

We also encourage our young adolescents to become involved in heterosexual activities, like dating, while at the same time providing them very little guidance related to sexuality, intimacy, and romantic relationships. Given these two major social changes, it should come as no surprise that adolescents turn increasingly to their peer groups for guidance and emotional support.

These biological and social changes can also lead to conflicts at home. This is the period in which our children must mature from dependence on their parents to taking greater responsibility for themselves. This requires renegotiating the power relationship between parents and adolescents. In some families, this renegotiation process can generate conflicts.

What else do we know about this period? First and foremost, most adolescents and their families weather this period rather successfully. Nonetheless, about 25 percent of our adolescents and their families are at risk for less than optimal development during the teenage years. For the most part, these youth are at risk because we as a society have failed to provide adequate in- and out-of-school experiences for them.

We also know that it is a time when our children need to figure out who they are, and what is their place in the larger society. It is a time of increases in both idealism and cynicism. It is a time for planning and preparing for the future. And for most youth, it is a time of optimism.

Finally, although we hear a lot about adolescents' desire for independence, what they want more than anything else is a meaningful role in their communities. Rather than independence, they want the opportunity to be effective, contributing members of their society. Unfortunately, we have failed to provide them with many such opportunities. Raising responsible and healthy adolescents requires us to provide such opportunities, as well as to make sure that all of our adolescents are given adequate training to make a successful transition into adulthood.

Today -- and I emphasize "today" -- we, as a society, are not doing very well in meeting these challenges. We need to do all we can to make sure all of our youth have both close, personal relationships with supportive adults, and the opportunities to be fully participating members of their communities.
(Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much, Dr. Eccles. (Applause.) You've raised a lot of questions, which I hope we can get back to and discuss.

Now I'd like to hear from Dr. Giedd, who will help us understand what actually may be going on in the brains of young teenagers.

DR. GIEDD: Well, thank you very much. It's an honor for me to be here.

Advances in computers, mathematics and imaging technology now allow us to examine the developing brain as never before. And what we've found surprised us. Any parent of a teen can tell you that a nine-year-old and a 13-year-old's brains are very different. Yet, to actually pin down those brain differences in a scientific way has been elusive. This is because nature has gone through a great deal of trouble to protect the brain. It's wrapped in a tough, leathery membrane, surrounded by a protective moat of fluid, and then completely encased in bone.

This has shielded it well from falls or attacks from predators; but it has also shielded it from scientists. (Laughter.) Most ways of looking at the living brain, such as X-rays or CT scans use harmful radiation that prevent us from using these to study healthy children.

MRI, or magnetic resonance imaging, changed all that. It allows us to get exquisitely accurate pictures of the living, growing human brain, and has helped launch a new era of adolescent neuroscience.

Brain development takes place by greatly over-producing the number of brain cells and connections. And this is followed by a highly competitive elimination phase in which only a small percentage of the cells and connections will make it. This process was thought to occur only in the womb, maybe during the first 18 months of life. But when we actually followed the development of children by scanning their brains each two years, we were amazed to find a second wave of over-production -- a whole decade later than we had originally thought.

Although the total size of the brain is already 95 percent of its adult size by first grade, the gray matter or thinking part of the brain continues to thicken as the brain cells grow extra connections, much like a tree growing extra branches, twigs or roots.

In the frontal part of the brain, which is involved in planning, judgment and organization, this over-production process peaks at about age 11 in girls, and 12 in boys -- about the same time as puberty. Then, the excess connections are eliminated or pruned, resulting in a thinning of the gray matter. We don't yet know all the forces that drive this adolescent pruning process; that's the next phase of our research. But one idea is the "use it or lose it" principle -- those cells and connections that are used will survive and flourish; those cells and connections that are not used will wither and die.

We feel this is an incredibly empowering concept for teens. Unlike when they were in the womb or during the first 18 months of their lives, the teens themselves can choose their activities and may be able to help guide the hard-wiring of their brains for the adult years.

It's an unfortunate irony that during this adolescent pruning process, when the brain is so vulnerable, it's also the time when experimentation with drugs and alcohol is most likely. It's been very gratifying in my clinical practice that many teens, armed with knowledge about what's actually happening in their brains, choose not to take those risks. But sometimes, through no fault of the parent or teen, the pruning process can go awry. For instance, in childhood schizophrenia, there is an over-pruning -- as much as four-fold in the frontal areas of the brain.

The impact of medicines on this process of developmental pruning is largely unknown. On the one hand, the medication used in teenagers is vastly understudied, so we don't know many of the potential risks, especially the long-term risks. But on the other hand, medicines

properly used may help the adolescent have a more healthy brain state, and therefore have more healthy hard-wiring, and may lessen the need for medicines as an adult. So it's a complicated issue. There are risks to not using medicines, and there are risks to using medicines in the teens.

While much work remains to be done, it's clear from a biological perspective that brain development is far, far from over during the first years of life. This represents a second chance for teens to make positive changes for themselves and for their futures. I'm truly thrilled to be part of this exciting process of discovery, and look forward to striving to provide information for parents, for teachers, for society, and for the teens themselves to help optimize the development of their brains.

Thank you. (Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much, Dr. Giedd. I'd like to call on someone, now, in the audience, because of course there are so many people in this room who have such a wealth of experience, and it's been very hard figuring out how we could get everyone to participate. But I would like to ask for comments from Angela Diaz, the Director of the Mt. Sinai Adolescent Health Center.

DR. DIAZ: Thank you. I would like to say that after 20 years serving adolescents, I have learned a few things. One of them is that adolescents are great health care consumers -- if they are engaged and they understand the process. Also, I have learned that we can have the greatest impact in that age group, whether we are parents, educators or health professionals.

The other thing that I learned is that we design services for adults, and then we want to fit teenagers in that model. And when it doesn't work, we blame them and we call them noncompliant, when, indeed, if we actually designed services to meet their needs, they would utilize those services. And those services need to be warm, welcoming; the adolescent needs to feel respected; they need to be provided at times with those so they can utilize them, including evening and weekend hours. They need to be provided regardless of the adolescent's ability to pay for them or not. And they need to honor confidentiality.

I think parents are the most important things for teens. The teenager needs their love, their nurturance, their understanding and their advocacy. But at times, teenagers are not able to tell their parents certain things, and we need to make sure that we can honor and provide confidential services when needed. I am the parent of three teens and I certainly hope that if my kids ever need anything that they cannot tell me, someone would make sure that they get the services that they need.

The other thing that I want to add is that those services need to be advertised so that the teens know where to go. And I think that's one of the beauties of school-based clinics. Because the services are provided right in school, where the teenagers are. They provide a great opportunity for follow-up and continuity, and they also happen to be extremely cost effective.

And I also learned that in addition to the physical health of teens, we need to attend their mental health needs -- whether they are stress related, depression, abuse or violence. Violence, including abuse, has become the number one public health issue in my work. I find that adolescent females are sexually abused more often -- they have a history of sexual abuse more often than any other condition. I'm in the field for 20 years, and we need to understand and realize that.

And the last thing that I want to add is that well-intentioned adults -- including parents, educators, health professionals, researchers, policy-makers and funders -- tend to see adolescent health in a varied problem, deficit-based way. And we really need to -- that leads to a lot of fragmentation. We need to move toward a more holistic, comprehensive,

multidisciplinary wellness model, in which appropriate nutrition, fitness, and adequate sleep form the infrastructure for adolescent well-being.

And I just want to say that as a society, we need to help adolescents grow up happy, healthy, well-educated, with hopes and opportunities. They are our thermostat: if they do well, we will do well as a nation. And I think adolescents are just great. They are terrific. Thank you. (Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much, Dr. Diaz, for your comments. And I'm glad you mentioned adequate sleep -- (laughter) -- which is an issue that we're hearing more about these days, as there's more and more research about how teenagers need more sleep. I don't know, Dr. Giedd and Dr. Eccles, if that has a biological base. But certainly it seems to have, and that many teenagers are chronically fatigued, which has to interfere with their biological and social functioning.

Our next panelist is Karen Pittman, someone I've known for many, many years, when she and I were both at the Children's Defense Fund. And she was there working to promote an adolescent policy agenda, and later when she agreed to serve as the Director of the President's Crime Prevention Council.

Karen is a sociologist by training, a nationally recognized leader in the field of youth development who helped to launch the movement America's Promise. She's currently the Senior Vice President of the International Youth Foundation, which is an organization dedicated to improving conditions and prospects for children and youth worldwide. And I think Karen has such a wealth of experience and can help us understand what all teenagers need -- the assets they need in their lives -- to develop into successful adults.

Karen Pittman.

DR. PITTMAN: Thank you. To answer the question, what young people need, we have to remind ourselves -- we first have to say, what do we define -- how do we define success. Too often our messages even today about what we want from young people are negative. We want them to not get pregnant, not use drugs, not get in trouble, not be violent. And parents and policy-makers alike are very concerned about the risky behaviors that threaten young people's futures, if not their lives.

But few parents stop their list there when they talk about their young people. Beyond wanting young people to not get in trouble, parents, and I think all of us, want to see them acquire the attitudes, the values, the skills and the behaviors that will position them for the future, and for success.

Problem-free isn't fully prepared. Anyone -- as an employer, if we say, I have Johnny, he's not in a gang, he's not on drugs, he's not illiterate, he's not a dropout, he's not a teen father, will you hire him -- hopefully, will say, what can he do. (Laughter.) So problem-free isn't fully prepared. And academic confidence, while it is absolutely critical and far too elusive still in this country for many young people, academic confidence is not enough to ensure success. We have to make sure that young people have the social, emotional, vocational and civic confidence that they need, and that we expect of them.

At the International Youth Foundation, we talk about five Cs -- the fact that young people need to be competent, they need to be confident, they need to have character, connections, and we have added the fifth C -- they need to be contributors. Not just have opportunities to contribute, but have very clear expectations from us that is what they need to do, as a part of being teens and as a part of being adults.

If these are the outcomes that we want from young people, what are the basic inputs? You've heard them today, but I'm going to repeat them anyhow, since I have a few minutes.

What is it that communities must provide in order to fully expect that our young people, in school or out of school, affluent or low-income, have the mix of services, supports and opportunities that they need in order to stay engaged and be full participants?

They are some basic things. First of all -- and we can't underestimate this -- young people need the basic care and services that were just talked about, that are affordable, appropriate, and accessible, and if necessary, confidential. Those services range from health care to transportation. But services alone are not enough, and services alone, we have learned, will not draw young people in from the streets or from dangerous behaviors. They need supports and opportunities.

Young people -- and we've heard this -- need people in their lives. They need adults who will listen, who will guide, who will respect them, and who will help them navigate. They need places, safe, stimulating, structured places where they can live, they can learn, they can work, they can play.

They need possibilities. They need high-quality instruction and training, not just in the academics, but in anything else they're interested in. They need opportunities to work. They need opportunities to contribute through service. We can enlist teens to clean vacant lots; we'd have to also make sure that they're prepared and ready to advocate for making that lot stay clean through better zoning and other policies.

We can give young people chances to do job shadowing; but in the end, we have to make sure they have jobs. The list of inputs that young people need is not very complicated. But these lists are powerful, and when these inputs are provided, young people thrive. You've heard that. You'll hear later from Dr. Blum, who will talk about the fact that we have research that suggests that the more young people have these basic inputs, the better off they are, the more likely they are to succeed, the less likely they are to engage in risky behaviors.

And we know that these inputs cannot be overly-redundant. They have to be provided in as many settings as possible -- families, schools, youth organizations, the workplace. These inputs are sensible and they are simple. As mentioned, America's Promise struck a chord in many communities by offering a basic list of five fundamental resources: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, marketable skills and opportunities to give back. And they challenged communities to provide all five. There are other lists. The Search Institute, public-private ventures. We know what young people need. But, still, these inputs are not available for every teen.

Families play a critical role in being the brokers, the monitors and the guides for their young people, to make sure they get those services, supports and opportunities. But there is a cruel irony in the fact that the parents who have the fewest personal resources live in the neighborhoods that have the fewest community resources. We have to address that, because too often the best that a parent can do, while saving the funds to move to a safer place, is to keep their young person indoors, because the dangerous people, places and possibilities in their neighborhoods far outweigh the safe ones -- not to even mention the stimulating ones. And this is a sad commentary on this country.

Saddest, perhaps, is the fact that we really, to date, have no way of knowing how bad or how good the situation is for individual young people. Common sense and research suggest that these inputs are cumulative, that the more teens have the better off they are. But, currently, we have no way to track how many young people get how many of these resources. We've had lots of individual data, but we really can't add it up to give this.

And while we know that we have data -- often too much data -- on the problems that young people have, we have very few ways of knowing how well they are doing, beyond academic success.

And this really is unfortunate, because the teens and young adults of America and their families have goals beyond staying out of trouble, and beyond graduating from high school. Our trend data suggest that problems are going down. We applaud this; we want it to continue. But we will not see improvements in teen prospects unless we can ensure that they have a full array of the people, places, and possibilities that they need to thrive, and a strong sense that we expect every one of them to do so. Thank you.
(Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: Well, we started our program with a video that highlighted some of the young people who are with us, who did such a good job. Now I think it's time we heard from another young person. Emily McDonald, who is in our audience today, is 17. She grew up in Clarkrange, Tennessee, in Appalachia. As a young child, she was sponsored by Save the Children.

Now, all of us remember Save the Children asking that we sponsor children. Well, here is one of the children who was sponsored in our own country. She also benefited from the Head Start program. And today, she's a straight-A student, a cheerleader, and a dedicated volunteer with Save the Children, helping to renovate that old Head Start center she attended as a child so it can serve as an after-school center.

Emily, I'd like you to tell us a little bit about yourself and what you're trying to do for your community.

MS. MCDONALD: Thank you, Mrs. Clinton, and good morning, everyone. I'm from a community called Clarkrange, in Fentress County, Tennessee. Our county's population is approximately 16,000 residents. The annual income for a family of three is just over \$13,000, far below the national average of \$20,000. There are 386 students at my high school, grades 7 through 12. Our area does not have a lot of resources or activities for young people. And for this reason, I have seen a lot of youth in my community become involved in drugs and violence because they do not have good alternatives.

My community and I are very fortunate and thankful to the Save the Children organization. I have been a sponsored child since age seven. With their help and the help of my grandmother, Estelle Cooper, who has been an active Save the Children volunteer since 1968, we are able to offer numerous in-school and after-school tutoring and mentoring programs, as well as art and reading programs. We do countless hours of volunteer community service projects and are able to provide better choices for children from pre-school through high school.

While giving back to our community, I also have a strong family base and much love and support, which empowers me to take on large tasks. I am especially close to my mother and grandmother. They have instilled in me the values of honesty, responsibility and to always do my best. I feel these things are important in all areas of life. My family and I enjoy family time, going to the movies and talking at mealtime -- by supporting each other in all our individual activities.

After my high school graduation next year I plan to go to college in my home state of Tennessee and pursue a career in medicine, and also give back to my community and country. That's the least I think I can do. Thank you.
(Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you so much, Emily. The way that you have described your connections between your family and your community is exactly what we've been hearing about today. I think you've got your mother with you today, don't you? And Mrs. McDonald, why don't you stand up and let us congratulate you on raising such a responsible and resourceful impressive young woman, as your daughter.
(Applause.)

Now, our next speakers may not be scientists or researchers, but they are experts. They are the parents of three teenagers. They both used to be six feet tall before they became the parents of three teenagers. (Laughter.)

I know that everyone in this audience and all of the people who are following this on the satellite transmission and the different sites around the country are familiar with the many films and roles that Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman have starred in; the television characters they've created on "Taxi" and "Cheers," and, increasingly, we're familiar with all of the movies that Danny has produced.

But you may not know about all of the work they do on behalf of children, most recently as spokespersons for the After School Alliance. And we've invited them here because they are two parents who have really focused a lot of energy and concern and love, despite their obviously busy schedules, not only on their own children, but on children in general, trying to provide better opportunities for them as well.

And, Danny and Rhea, why can't you give us a few hints, then, about raising responsible and resourceful teenagers.

MR. DEVITO: You want to go?

MS. PERLMAN: No, you go. Go ahead.

MR. DEVITO: It's negotiation, the whole thing. (Laughter.)

Wow, this is really exciting. First of all, thanks so much for this opportunity to be here and listen to everybody. I'm writing a lot of things down that I think I'm going to try to apply.

The one thing that you were saying, Doc, was about, you know, if you told teenagers, that if they do all these things they're going to lose brain matter, I think they wouldn't do it. (Laughter.) You know, just show them. Get a brain before and a brain after -- you see that stuff dwindling down? I wouldn't do anything. (Laughter.) I mean, that's key, right?

Anyway, I'm really a lucky guy, because I have -- you know, for 17 years I've been able to come home from work, really come home from work and hang out with my kids. Ninety percent of the time I'm successful at that. I mean, I try to do that, and Rhea is the same way. You know, it's like, hey, I eat dinner with them, and hang out, try to be there while they do their homework. I mean, I can't go near math or science or anything like that, you know what I'm saying? (Laughter.) But I can ask them the questions off of those note cards and things. You know, spell this, or something. As long as I've got the answer in front of me. (Laughter.)

But you know -- and as they grow older, they have all their own things that they start getting into. Now I come in the house, and I make sure they know I'm home, I yell into Lucy's room, I say, Lucy -- she's my 17-year-old, you know -- and I hear her go like this: hold on a second. Hi, Dad. I'm on the phone. Okay, all right. So, just want you to know I'm here. And I go to Gracie's room, and she's on the computer, you know, and she's doing homework, and I hear the click-click-click-click, the typing going on and stuff. And I just say, I'm here, you know.

And then I ran out in the hallway, and Jake, who's 12, actually going to be 13 in October. He runs down the hallway -- this you'll appreciate -- he had a towel, a wet towel, it was all twisted up and wrapped around with rubber bands and string. And he said, you know, this is a brain -- now this is a brain, see? It looked like it was in the shape of a brain. He said, you know, Dad, that if you take the gray matter of a brain and you stretch it out, it would be the size of an office desk. Right? (Laughter.) Am I right? (Laughter.)

And he uptalks, my son. You know what uptalk is? You know, like, where they don't end a sentence and they keep talking like this, and they go like that. And if you take the arteries and capillaries and veins in your body and you stretch them all around you can go four times around the world? (Laughter.) I go, uh-huh, okay. Whew, down the block -- he's down the end of the hallway and I'm left there with a puddle from the dripping towel. (Laughter.)

But uptalk is really interesting. You've probably experienced it, like all the doctors and people who have studied it. I think it comes from people not -- you know, kids want to be heard, and they're afraid that if they stop, adults are going to cut them off and they're not going to talk to them.

So, anyway, I think -- in October, like I said, I'm going to have three teenagers in the house. I'm not looking for sympathy. (Laughter.) I'm bragging. I think it's really good. I like hanging out with them. And there are so many pressures -- teenagers have so many pressures. And a lot of times, the pressures come from the very people that they turn to for help -- counselors and teachers and parents.

There are so many things going through their head, all kinds of weird thoughts and whatever, and what do they do? And if they don't have anybody that they trust, that they can turn to, it's devastating. They're confused, or they're mad, or they're sad, or a combination of all that at once. It doesn't matter where a teenager is from, because they're susceptible and it's easy for them to get into trouble if they have a lot of free time on their hands, there's no guidance.

I think that's what we have to do -- we have to listen to our kids. And if we're there all the time, that's okay. And we have to tell them the truth. That's big. We have to really level with them. It's that seven years between -- the teenage years when they go from being a kid to being an adult. And I think it's also a key thing that you make sure you tell your kids that there was a time when you went through those seven years and you weren't so wise and so perfect like you are now. (Laughter.) Just tell them that you understand what they're going through.

This is really good. I am really happy to be here. Thank you. Rhea, you're probably going to jump in here now.
(Laughter and applause.)

MS. PERLMAN: He's such a great dad, really. (Laughter.) We try to spend as much time with our kids as we possibly can. We're there a lot. We don't go to see Limp Bizkit concerts with them or anything, or hang around when they're on the phone. But it's just very important that we stay intimately and deeply involved with their lives, even though they may be bigger than us and can drive. (Laughter.)

But when we're not there, we try to know who they're with and what they're doing and make sure that they've got something valuable going on. But we're kind of lucky that way because we have excellent resources. And I think that most parents really want to be with their children a lot, but very few parents can physically be there for them as much as they would like to because they work.

And most parents do, and some have two jobs or three jobs, and they don't have any resources. So if their kid isn't in the school play or in the band or writing for the paper or on a team, then they have nothing and they don't know what their kids are doing. And there aren't even grandmas or neighbors around that much anymore to look in on their kids because they're out working, too.

So to address something that Ms. Pittman was talking about, I think that kids really need safe places to go after school. Places where they can do things that make them feel good

about themselves -- work on stuff that they're interested in, get help with their homework, get something to eat if they're hungry, where they can have access to computers and music, art, sports, where they can just talk to an adult if they're having a problem, or chill out with some kids.

So for many years, Danny and I have been working with an organization -- it's a terrific organization called L.A.'s Best. And they set up and run after-school programs in Los Angeles elementary schools. These programs are free, they're voluntary. And the sign-up rate is huge. I mean, there are waiting lists for this program. And the people who supervise the kids -- 90 percent of them are from the community. They're trained; some of them are salaried, some of them volunteer, and some of them are high school students who do it as part of their work-study programs, which is great for them as well.

And the kids in L.A.'s Best love it there. They love it. They feel safer. They like school more. They get better grades. And then, when they end up going to middle school, the absentee rate of these kids, compared to the kids who haven't been through the program, drops way down. This means that they're staying in school, and this is key, because -- this is a statistic that someone told me the other day. It says, the correlation between school dropouts and teen violence is greater than between smoking and lung cancer.

I mean, you know, there's a lot of talk about standards and testing and all that. I've been reading a lot in the newspaper about this. But if there's nobody in the classroom, all the standards and the testing in the world don't mean diddley-squat.

So L.A.'s Best, though, is not in every elementary school, it's in no high schools or junior highs. And that's only in Los Angeles. So Danny and I have joined the After-School Alliance, whose goal is to have every child in the United States have access to quality, affordable after-school care by the year 2010. (Applause.) And that's why the President and the First Lady's commitment to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, which is a federally funded program to make after-school activities available, is so important.

And I don't want to seem greedy, but -- I am. (Laughter.) We need more. It seems to me that the federal government, the states, the cities and the private sector should all pull together to make helping parents take care of our children a priority. Because parents constantly worry about their kids -- constantly. The period of highest juvenile violence is in the hour after school ends.

So to know that your kid isn't out on the street or, for that matter, home alone surfing the channels on the TV, watching who knows what, would bring a lot of peace. And teenagers are already under so much pressure, as we've heard, from peer groups, from competition, from school, from their hormones -- to have a positive option, instead of the extra burden of having to fend for themselves as kids would mean a lot to a lot of kids.

So thank you. (Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: I thank both Danny and Rhea for sharing those experiences. And, Danny, thank you for talking about how important it is just to hang out with your kids -- without an agenda, without a plan, without trying to make something happen, but just to be there for them and have a chance to learn about the brain as a wadded-up towel. That's something he wanted to tell you.

MR. DEVITO: That's right. That's right.

MRS. CLINTON: And, Rhea, thank you for yours and Danny's commitment to after school programs. And I especially appreciate your mentioning how, in some of the programs older kids, young teens, are among those who supervise the younger kids, which is such a critical

way of giving young people some responsibility.

One of our problems is that there is not a lot for kids to do anymore. There aren't the chores that used to be part of daily growing up. And I think a lot of parents don't either feel they can or think it's kind of a waste of time to assign those sorts of chores. There's not the daily work that people had to do. And so we've got to create responsible roles for young people. And doing what you're doing is so critical to that.

I'm very grateful to this panel, and I'm going to ask the next panel to come up. And as they do, let's give another round of applause to this panel. (Applause.) Karen, thank you so much.

MRS. CLINTON: This second panel is focused on what parents can do to help teens, and what communities can do to help teens and parents. I was very struck by what Karen Pittman said about how it's often the parents with the fewest resources who live in the communities with the fewest resources -- the fewest private resources in the areas with the fewest public resources. And so we need to be focused on what tools we can give to parents and communities.

You know, David Hamburg, who was instrumental in planning this conference and who is one of our nation's leading experts on adolescent development, called our next speaker's recent book, a book that I am reading, which I recommend to everyone, a book called "Our Last Best Shot" -- Dr. Hamburg called it the best book on adolescents ever written for the general public. And that's quite a recommendation.

Laura Sessions Stepp is a Pulitzer prize-winning journalist from The Washington Post. But she's here today to share with us what she learned in researching her book, which is really a road map for parents navigating the challenging teen years.

And she will then introduce our two next speakers, who are aptly named Edd and Edwin Speaker, which is very appropriate, who are featured in a chapter in her book that is called "Am I Competent?" which echoes some of our earlier panelists' comments about the importance of teens feeling competent.

So let me now turn to Laura Sessions Stepp.

MS. STEPP: Thank you, Mrs. Clinton, for inviting me to speak in front of this most distinguished and caring group.

I'd like to start by telling two short anecdotes. One night, three years ago, in a small Kansas town called Ulysses, a 13-year-old named Shannon spent an hour complaining to me about her mom, Brenda. Mom got onto her about e-mail; Mom got onto her about her grades; her litany was as long as her face. And, yet, as soon as she got home, she headed straight for mom and gave her a big hug and said, mom, I love you.

In Durham, North Carolina, a 14-year-old named Mario had to sit out 8th grade because he had been suspended from school. When I asked him what was good about his life, he answered quickly, my parents, I be doing everything with them.

These stories illustrate a significant point: No matter how teenagers may criticize their mom and dad, parents matter to them a lot. Think about the poll Mrs. Clinton mentioned earlier: Three out of four teens wish they had more time with their parents -- three out of four. That doesn't surprise me.

When I began researching my book, I really wanted to look at kids' relationships with people other than parents -- coaches, teachers, mentors. The kids, themselves, kept leading me back to their families. And what I learned from following those 18 families over two

years is that closeness with teens is earned, it's not a given.

The closeness is earned in three ways. I call these concepts the three R's of raising teens. Parents who raise healthy teens so respect for their kids' rapidly growing minds and bodies; they give their kids an increasing amount of responsibility; and they work at keeping a close relationship with them. Respect, responsibility and relationship are what's important, all the rest is details.

For example, in Kansas, Jack Richardson's mom, Gay, agreed to let him rope bulls in rodeo arenas when he was 12. That's respect. Edwin Speaker, whom you will meet in a few minutes, was selling art and incense for his mom on California's Venice Beach, also by age 12. Can you imagine letting your child run a booth, by himself, among hundreds of hucksters and weirdos on Venice Beach? (Laughter.) More comical, can you imagine your face when he brings home \$300 for one day's work? Now, that's responsibility.

Libby Segal, a 7th grader in Los Angeles, was caught smoking marijuana and drinking at a party. When her mother, Rebecca, picked Libby up and took one whiff, she could easily have blasted her with accusations. Instead, she asked a pointed question. What does it mean to do this with your friends, she asked. She forced Libby to think, even in her altered state. Rebecca told Libby, your friends' actions affect you, but you affect them, too.

You see, she respected her daughter's thinking skills, even though she knew her judgment had failed temporarily. She reminded Libby that she was responsible for herself and for others. And most importantly, she kept that relationship going through what could have been a disaster by asking questions calmly.

I've developed a theory about successful parenting relationships from years of writing about teenagers. Parents who do almost anything for their young children continue to make tangible sacrifices to stay close to their kids in adolescence. Some work split shifts so that a parent is always home. Some volunteer in school on their lunch hour. They listen to their kids, the smallest details that their kids want to share, and they never, ever give up on them.

One last story. Shannon, the Kansas girl who complained first and hugged second, continued to have a rocky relationship with her mother after I left that family. Two years after I left, she injured herself intentionally. Fortunately, she survived. Her mother, Brenda, hung in there, and a year later, after she had done that, Shannon gave her mom a cross-stitch wall hanging, and on it were the words, "If I didn't have you for a mother, I'd choose you for a friend."

Thank you very much.
(Applause.)

And now it is my very great privilege to introduce Edd and Edwin Speaker, the father-son duo who fill the first chapter of "Our Last Best Shot." Edd grew up in Texas before moving to Los Angeles. He's an insurance claims consultant and has four children. Edwin, despite how big he is, he's his youngest. Edd and his ex-wife, Dorothy, split up when Edwin was seven. Edwin lives with his dad who, out of necessity, became a master at networking for his son.

Edwin, a high school freshman when I met him, and considerably shorter, is now a senior in high school. He's a talented drummer and disc jockey, and has plans -- at least, I think he has plans to become a sound engineer. Edd Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. It's an honor to be here, and to be among such great minds. You know, I sat and I listened to all the comments that have been made about the development of children. And you know, I kind of wondered, I said, well, who showed everybody what I was going to say? (Laughter.) Because most of the points that I intended

to make have been touched on. And to me, that just kind of solidifies the thought that we all have a common goal, we all have a common caring about our kids.

And being a single parent, there have been a number of obstacles that I've faced as a single parent, and that I think all parents face, whether they be single parents or two-family parents. And the number one obstacle being to provide a safe environment -- to have an after-school program where you don't have to worry about what's happening to your kid, what type of influences that they're being exposed to, and that you can go about your daily job of earning a living for the family.

I think that in order to be a successful parent, in addition to being involved with your child on a daily basis, you have to start by networking. I've been asked a number of times, you know, tell us what you've done to be a successful parent. And I started by networking. And the question comes back, well, what does networking do?

Networking basically provides you with a base of resources. And when I say networking, I mean talking to other parents that have the same common sharing, that have the same goals, that may know about programs, that may know about resources that you don't know -- listening to these parents and taking advantage of them.

I started in the church. You know, Edwin and I are very religious people, and our entire moral basis is based on things that we've learned right and wrong, and we started in the church. In my church, I was talking with a church member who informed me about a sports clinic. I went to the sports clinic, I talked with a parent at the sports clinic who told me about Challengers Boys and Girls Club, which is a member of the Boys' and Girls' Club of America.

I went over to Challengers, and they said, oh, yes, we've got a transportation program, we can pick you kid up from school, bring him here, help him with his homework, and you come by after you get off from work. I said, gee, how in the world am I going to afford something like this. They said, well, it's \$25 a year. You may not be able to afford it. And I was really excited about the fact that this wide array of services was available.

So I decided that I would become intensely involved with this organization, as well as with other community organizations, and that I would bring my son along, and try to show him rather than tell him. So I was constantly there with him. We were constantly involved. He's evolved into a quite a young man and I'm really proud of him.

One of the things I will say is that it would not be fair for me to try to take all the credit for Edwin's development. People come to me, they say, you've got such a great son, you did such an outstanding job. And while it's true he is a great son and a fine young man, I can't take all the credit for it. He has a strong relationship with his mom, he sees her on a regular basis. There are other people that obviously have influenced his life -- his teachers, there are other mentors. It takes a village to raise a kid; and while we all want to take all the credit, it's just not fair.

And I think, even more importantly so, is that a certain amount, if not a major part of it, goes to Edwin, because he's the one that makes the choice. I mean, you can present all these things, you can bring all the programs, you can have all the resources that you want -- but the kid still has to make a conscious decision: Yes, I want to be this way; yes, I want to be the kind of person that adults respect, that my peers like me. And I think he's made a conscious decision to be this kind of person.

I could go on and on naming all the things that he's done and the things that I've been concerned about, but I think that I can sum it up by saying that as a parent, we all constantly reach for the kind of positive personality components and character elements that we want our kid to have. But it's up to the kid to make these choices. And the one thing that we can

do is that we have to embrace our children, we have to love them and just never, ever stop pushing them to be the best that they can be.
(Applause.)

And it's also quite an honor to be here and to be able to share this with my son. We started out as a father and son team, about 10 years ago, he was six years old, and we had no idea that we would ever be in such an audience and such a place. And I'd like to introduce him and have him say a few things. Edwin, stand up.
(Applause.)

EDWIN SPEAKER: It's truly an honor to be here, to speak in front of the First Lady, and even to see the President is a real honor. And me and my dad, we're like a normal family. We don't see it as doing different things, we just do it as normal. Like me being involved in the Boys and Girls Club helped a lot. I have a lot of mentors, they taught me a lot of different things. I was in a lot of different programs.

And I think if it wasn't for my dad, where would I be? Because like I said, it takes a man to raise a man. (Applause.) I mean, I give credit to my mom, too, but I owe it most to my dad. He took me fishing. We used to go out to the ball game. He was involved in a lot of programs in the club. It's because of that, that I think I'm here today. I just owe most of the credit to him. That's all I have to say.
(Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: Laura Stepps' book talks a lot about the question that she poses: Am I competent? -- is a child competent to do something and feel good about himself. And, certainly, Edd and Edwin are examples for all of us who know that there are challenges that have to be overcome in everyone's life.

But seeking that commitment to overcome them and create that competence -- and I like Laura's three R's of respect, responsibility and relationship -- but I think you summed it very well, Mr. Speaker, when you talked about show me, not tell me. And there really is not any substitute for that.

And I think partly because of time pressures and because we are living in such a non-stop, talky culture where people are just talking at us and sometimes you turn on TV, they're yelling at us -- people think that talk substitutes for action, and that as long as you're a good talker, it doesn't really matter what else you do. And that has permeated our culture.

So the idea, the slogan, "show me, don't tell me," that's the way you build competence. You can tell somebody something over and over again, but only by showing them and exemplifying the characteristics you want do you really have a chance of creating the sort of person that you hope to have.

Now, our next speaker, Dr. Robert Blum, is the Director of the Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Health at the University of Minnesota, and is a co-investigator for the seminal national longitudinal study on adolescent health known as ADD Health.

This important research holds very significant information about the influence of social factors and connections to the health of teenagers. And I think it's important that we know what this research is demonstrating, because sometimes your experience may not be enough; you may feel somewhat doubtful about your own experience, or even about what somebody else tells you. But backing up that experience with the research may help to, I hope, change some people's minds about what we need to do. Dr. Blum?

DR. BLUM: Thank you very much. Mrs. Clinton, I wasn't going to comment, but you raised the issue before about chores. And there actually has been research, and we've done some of the work with kids with disabilities. And what we found is that chores, having

responsibilities, is a non-verbal message that you matter in my family. And kids who don't have chores get the message, you don't count.

I'd like to structure my comments, based on ADD Health, around four myths. Myth number one: Families don't matter. By the time we reach adolescence, it's all in the genes -- spell it whichever way -- (laughter) -- or peers.

What do we know? We know that families in fact do matter, and continue to matter throughout the teenage years. In the original analyses of ADD Health, family connectedness was associated with delay in sexual debut, less cigarette smoking, less alcohol use, less emotional distress and suicidality, and less violence. We have also found that adolescent perceptions, what kids believe -- particularly about maternal disapproval of sex -- are associated with delay of first intercourse. Parents' perceptions, on the other hand -- what mom says she believes -- has no such association with delay of first intercourse.

What influences perception? Perceptions don't seem to be influenced by the amount of talk. They seem to be influenced, as we have seen this morning, by the interaction of caring and connectedness, on the one hand, and clear and consistent messages.

Myth number two: parents need to be home after school to monitor their kids more. There's value to being home after school. But what we know is that monitoring without connectedness has little associated protective effect. Where it does, it's mostly with older teenagers, and it's limited to certain substance abuse.

Likewise, while there are less health-risk behaviors found in teenagers whose parents are home more times during the day -- at breakfast, after school, dinner, and at bedtime -- there are no magical times of the day. And after school is no more magical than any other time.

Myth number three: Do things with your kids. You know, take your kid hunting and you won't have to go hunting for you kid. And Edwin, as much as your dad took you to ball games, I don't think that was the answer.

Doing activities with parents by itself is associated with very little risk reduction. Going shopping, tossing a football, does not create connectedness. Psychological availability does. The key is giving a young person the consistent message that they're crazy about them. Yuri Bronfman-Brenner said, every kid needs someone who's crazy about them.

Myth number four: The real issue is family divorce. I was in the House Ways and Means Committee office antechamber, and there was a big poster. With a red light, it said, "Stop juvenile violence." And a green light, it said, "Start two-parent families." Would that we could.

But underlying this is the assumption that the answer is two-parent families, and the problem is single parents. What do we know? Well, young people who come from single-parent families are more likely than others to be involved in every risk behavior. The vast majority of these young people are not involved. Additionally, and importantly, coming from a single-parent family explains less than two percent of alcohol use; less than two percent of weapon-related violence; very little suicide risk at all; very little difference between those who have had early sexual involvement. Clearly, things other than the family is going on.

What matters? For violence risk, what we see from ADD Health: school failure, victimization -- and Dr. Diaz spoke to that -- future plans, friends drinking, friends' suicide or suicide attempts, and access to weapons at home all are associated with violence risk.

For substance abuse: temperament, early physical maturation, peer drug use, parent smoking, parent drug use.

For suicide attempts, factors that increase risk include poor school performance, sexual victimization and low self-esteem. For every group, when we looked at suicide attempt, family connectedness clearly reduced suicide risk, no matter what else was going on.

For sexual relations, whether you're male or female, black, white, Hispanic, being in a relationship greatly increases your risk of early sexual intercourse. As opportunities increase, not surprisingly, so does the likelihood of sexual intercourse. On the other hand, those young people who see pregnancy as having a high personal cost -- for their reputation, for themselves, for their future -- are much more likely to delay intercourse.

What can we conclude? When we look at the factors that place young people at risk for a range of what Lee Shore (pho.) calls "crummy outcomes," we consistently see school failure as part of the picture. School failure is a public health problem for youth. (Applause.)

It is influenced in part by parental attitudes towards school. Parents who highly value school have kids who are much more connected with school, and it is very protective. So, too, family connectedness is strongly associated with school connectedness. And these, family and school, are the two major institutions in the lives of young people.

Families matter. But only in connection with school, with church, with other community institutions can they be successful. Parents can't do it alone, and we should stop expecting them to. (Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: You know, clearly from Dr. Blum's comments, the whole issue of connectedness, and the psychological availability that parents have to their children, is becoming a theme of today's conference. But I think it's often difficult for parents to translate that into what they're supposed to do every day, because each of us inherits, both perhaps biological and environmental, our own ability to be psychologically available, our own openness, our upbringing influences, how we relate to our children.

So are there ways that we can help parents know what that means? Because for the people who might be watching this or reading about it, Laura writes about all these parents, and I'm reading her book. You know, every one of them wakes up in the morning trying to do what she or he thinks is best for the child or children in that family.

There are very few parents -- I mean, there are some -- but there are very few parents who deliberately set out to undermine their child's competence, destroy the connectivity, and create a child who is at risk of failure or who has one of the problems we're talking about. So before we go on to the next speaker, I'd like to ask three panelists who have already spoken, perhaps, to just say a word: how do you become better connected? How do you become psychologically available?

And Dr. Blum, what I basically heard you say is that -- and Mr. Speaker said the same thing -- that one of the reasons you network and you find other adults who are responsible to be part of your children's lives is to make up for your own deficits. You may recognize things about yourself that you may try to work on, but you're not going to be the best, most available parent there is. So you try to find a Challengers Boys and Girls Club. You encourage your child to be active in a religious activity, or something like that. Is that one of the answers? Laura?

MS. SESSIONS STEPP: It certainly is. Another thing is that I think you can plug into their world. Ms. Perlman mentioned not going to Limp Bizkit concerts, so I'm not saying we all have to listen to, God help us, Limp Bizkit. But it is important to know who Limp Bizkit is, and to have listened to some of those Cds, so that you know what it is your child is listening to, and you have that basis for conversation when they're ready to talk to you about it. So

there are ways to sort of be on the edge of your child's life, but still be connected to the center.

DR. BLUM: We went and spoke with young people and said, how do you know when your parents are connected? And they had wonderful and clear examples. A note on the refrigerator that says, Jimmy, I'm going to be home late from work today. There's a sandwich in the refrigerator for you. I'll be back at 5:00 p.m. A phone call from work after school to say, how did your day go? I'm going to be tied up. Being there when I come home at night.

My father, who knows the name of the guy that I went out with, and doesn't say, how was the date that you had with What's-his-name? My mother who remembers that I had a math test last Thursday and said, how did you do on that math test, and didn't forget about it. All of those things say, you count.

MRS. CLINTON: Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Well, just to kind of piggyback on what Dr. Blum is saying, I think that certainly these are things that give an indication that you do count. And they are things that I, as a parent, try to practice, by being involved and knowing exactly where Edwin is and what he's doing, and knowing times -- there are times, again, it looks like he's reading my mind, because there are times when I'm not going to be home that I'll leave some money on the table and say, you know, get you something to eat. I'll be a little late, and then I'll call and make sure where he is. And I'll try to keep track of his social development, where he goes, who he's with, who he's seeing.

And I think that he probably thinks that I'm kind of overprotective, but there are just so many things that are happening out there. And I've tried to stay on top of it at all times. I think it's important in the development of our kids that we're there and we know -- we've got to know what's going on, whether they like it or not. And it can be done from a positive stance, by just saying, yes, I care. I want to know. I want to know who this guy is. Who are his parents? What do they do? It's just a thing that you have to do.

MRS. CLINTON: I really appreciate that, because I think we want to send some strong messages today, but we don't want people to feel sort of helpless about how they can translate all of this experience and advice into sort of day-by-day activities. And as I was listening, I was remembering a conversation that I once had with a friend of mine, Janet Hill, who is the mother of Grant Hill and the wife of Calvin Hill. And they led very busy lives, but they just had hard and fast rules about staying in contact.

And Janet used to tell me that she had a set time every day, if she wasn't going to be available physically, to call and talk with Grant. So even if she was on the other side of the world, at 3:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. -- I can't remember what time it was exactly -- she'd set the alarm clock, she'd wake herself up, she'd call. She would make sure he knew she was thinking about him, so that the psychological availability, which creates the psychological space, which is really where we conduct most of our lives together, was always available. And I think that that's something that anyone, even a busy parent, if they're constantly thinking about their child and reaching out, can try to manage to do.

Our next speaker who is in the audience today is one of our nation's leading authorities on work and family issues. Ellen Galinsky is the cofounder and president of the Families and Work Institute, which conducts pioneering studies on the ways that job and home life inter-relate. And her recent book, "Ask The Children," challenged some of the conventional wisdom about children's views of their parents' work.

And Ellen has really been a pioneer in making all of us stop and think about some of those issues. And I remember so well when I was a young lawyer working how there were rules in

a lot of the places, not only that I represented and visited, that you could not make personal phone calls.

And around 2:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m., every afternoon, you'd see all the women who worked in those offices sneaking around to call their children, to make sure that their children got picked up, that they got home, that they were taken care of. How much better it would be if offices said, look, we need you to be a good employee and one of the ways we're going to do that is by supporting you in being a good parent; so for goodness' sake, you've got permission to call and find out whether your child is home safely.

It's those little things that make a big difference, because they undermine this psychological availability. And I think there are a lot of parents who are caught in a double-bind, who feel that they can't express at work what they need to in terms of staying in touch with and connected with their children. So, Ellen, will you tell us what employers can do to help their employees who parent teenage children to be better at that important job.

MS. GALINSKY: I'd like to point out a trend in this conference that we haven't talked very much about, before I address your question. And that is, we've all talked about the fact that this conference is bringing us a new view of parenting a teenager; it's not just the problems, but we're looking at the promise, the potential of young people.

But the other thing that we're doing that is unusual and I do think is a part of a trend, is that we're listening to children. We're not just talking about children and communicating within families; but we as a society have brought children here and we're listening to children -- it changed the book that you've written, it has changed the way you parented, and so forth.

So I did the same thing in thinking about how to answer your question. I looked at what children say they need. And the answers won't be particularly surprising, but -- I think, actually, they are surprising -- but I think that they're very important.

The first is, and we've talked about it, the importance of flexibility of time, that the amount of time is not necessarily so important as having flexibility in time. And it's not just little children who need that. When I looked at whether children felt that they had enough time with their parents, it was older children, more so than younger children, who were yearning for time with their parents. One in four companies provide flexibility on a daily basis for parents.

The second issue is -- and I think Mrs. Clinton just talked about this -- is having support that's without jeopardy, that you don't have to sneak around to make a phone call. And it's important that be true for mothers as well as for fathers. I found when I asked the children, for example, what was important to them, they were particularly yearning for more time with their dads, even a bit more so than their moms. So we need to make sure that when we think of employer supports at the workplace that we're thinking of fathers, as well as thinking of mothers.

We've been talking about the importance of networks and support. And the workplace is a very important place to have that happen. A recent study that I just did of kids, I found that 80 percent of them said that their mothers worked most of the time that they were growing up; and 86 percent of them said that their fathers worked most of the time when they were growing up, so the workplace is an important place that can provide support for families and to help parents navigate, as you say, those tough moments in being a parent.

I asked kids, for example, what are some of the most important things that they can do, and they talked about the importance of being able to talk to them. They said -- one 14-year-old, don't be afraid to talk to your kids. They may act like they don't want to, but talking to them is great, and they want you to whether you think they want to or not. So help at the workplace with how do you talk to kids. And in fact, I once did a seminar when I brought in

a group of teenagers to talk to the corporate audience about when does it work in talking to your kids, and when is it a disaster, and what differentiates those two things.

The other thing we've been talking about all morning, too, which is that the small moments make a big difference. When I asked children what they would most remember from this period in their childhood, it was those small moments, those everyday moments -- the song that you sing when you wake up your kid; the note on the refrigerator that you're coming home -- that make the biggest difference. And we can get that kind of support and we can learn those little tricks from each other at the workplace, particularly since so much of us spend so much time there.

The fourth suggestion that I have also comes from kids. When I ask children if they had one wish and I just gave them one wish for what they would change to change the way their mother's or their father's work affects their lives, children said that they wished that their parents were less stressed and less tired. And that's an issue that we've skirted around the edges of all day. It's a surprise -- only two percent of parents guessed that their kids would say that, by the way.

Work is becoming more demanding. But interestingly enough, I also found that when parents have good jobs -- and that means that they're reasonably demanding, that means that they have some autonomy in their job, that means that they don't have to pretend that they don't have a life outside of work at the workplace, that their supervisors are supportive, things like that, they not only come home less stressed, which I think has health repercussions, but they also have more energy for their kids. But, I think importantly, they go back to work ready to invest that in the workplace. So it's not a win-lose, it's not an either/or situation the way we think it is. A good workplace can lead to better parenting and lead to better workers at the workplace.

Now, unfortunately, only 12 percent of employers are doing something specifically to help parents of teenagers. So I hope that this conference will be the clarion call that helps this be the next frontier for the workplace. Thank you. (Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: You know, Ellen's contribution to this is so important, because for a long time, our national dialogue about work and family has focused mostly on young children -- how do we provide child care for the preschooler, how do we take care of the third- and fourth-grader who is going to get out of school and has nowhere to go.

But we now know how important it is that parents have these flexible times and these moments and this support in parenting their teenagers as well. And I really appreciate Ellen's leadership in this effort.

Another area where parents are asking for help is monitoring their teens' television and Internet and video game and music usage. And as I said earlier, I really think we need a voluntary, uniform rating system that will tell all parents in a simple and consistent way whether the material their children wish to view is appropriate.

But until we have such a system in place, we at least have a variety of ratings that we can rely on, but a lot of parents don't even know about those ratings and find them confusing and, therefore, unhelpful, and in addition, don't know how to use the V-chip, either.

Now, as we know from the poll that was released this morning, parents think they are supervising their children's Internet usage. But I don't think it will surprise any of us that their teenage children tell a very different story. They don't think they're being supervised at all, and if they have parents like me, they don't think that their parents could supervise what they're doing, so they feel pretty much unsupervised. I'm hopeful that the Task Force on Tools for Parents and Teens in the Media Age will help address this important point.

Our next speaker from the audience will speak about the responsibility of the media and entertainment industry to develop these tools for parents so that parents can better understand and monitor the new media.

Judith McHale is the President and Chief Operating Officer of Discovery Communications and Chair of the Board of The National Campaign to End Youth Violence. She has been a terrific bridge between the world of family and work, between the public and the private sectors. I can't thank her enough for the leadership she's given on so many important issues.

And we've asked her to share her views regarding the role of the media. Judith?

MS. MCHALE: Thank you, Mrs. Clinton, and thank you for hosting this amazing conference. As a mother of a teenager, I'm taking copious notes as we go through it. You speak about the role of media and the responsibility of the media. One of the sort of trends I hear through this is communication and the importance of communication with your teenagers.

At the same time, when we are being bombarded with changes in media, the technological changes around the world are absolutely stunning, and the choices that our children have to make every day, the images all of us are constantly being hit with I think are creating huge, huge obstacles to those moments of communication. And what should we and what should our role in the media be as we look at it.

I think one of the things that I sort of tried to, as I've stepped back and looked at it is this question of -- you probably can't shield them from everything that's going on; that would be an impossible task. But why not take steps to harness the incredible potential power of all of this sort of information that's going around and use it in good and positive ways.

Now, that's easier said than done for most parents. Mrs. Clinton, you alluded to how difficult it is to monitor your kids' behavior, and I would say there's nothing more -- no more humbling experience than I had this morning, standing behind my 11-year-old, helping me to -- my way through a computer. I think we have a different kind of digital divide going on between techno-savvy kids and their parents. So it makes it very, very difficult for you to understand all that's going on. And, frankly, I think it's frightening for a lot of us.

When you sort of see that your 11-year-old or your 17-year-old is far more sophisticated than you are in wending and navigating their way through this new world, how, indeed, are you going to be able to help them out. And I think we in the media have a responsibility to help develop tools and communicate tools to parents and to others to do that, to parents to provide them with the resources that they need to understand the information that is flowing into their homes or into their schools that their kids are dealing with.

I think someone -- Mrs. Clinton, you might have mentioned earlier, to get that wise site on the Internet with helps parents understand the kinds of resources that are out there and guides for the kids. I think tools for families to help them share some of these experiences together -- we've -- Discovery launched our Internet site and we kept in mind families and tried to develop a tool that would allow families together to explore the net.

But most importantly, I think we need to develop tools for kids, with kids, to help them understand the messages that they are receiving in all these new ways. We spend hundreds of hours in schools, year after year, helping kids interpret the written word, but we've done very little to this point to help them interpret electronic media and the messages that they're getting from a variety of other ways.

One of the things that I've been trying to do -- and we've developed a program at Discovery which, last week, I announced we were going to take into every school in the state of Maryland, a media literacy program, which is absolutely designed to help kids understand

the messages that they're getting over television, through the net, what have you.

And last year, when we launched -- started looking into this program, I took it into some schools in Maryland myself and went around to see them, and at every level, it was one of the things that the kids really wanted. And it was amazing -- we went to a high school in Bethesda and it was with a sort of fear and intrepidity, launching a new program there in front of 500 kids in high school. And we went through the whole program, it's highly interactive, where they can really see the news, see sports events, how they are portrayed on television, and begin to interpret it. And at the end of it -- we ended early -- one of my favorite anecdotes was, the principal at the school said, okay, why don't you guys give us your feedback. I was totally terrified that when you're dealing with kids this age, what were they going to say about this boring message.

And I always remember one kid stood up and I would say he was about 16 or 17, and sort of had a scarf on his head. And he looked at me and he said, you know -- he goes, this was really cool. And which, obviously, as the mother of a teenager, knew this was high praise -- and he goes, of course, you've ruined television for me, but that's okay, this is really cool. And you found the kids wanting to be totally engaged in this process, to really understand. When you are able to explain to them the impact of violence on them -- I go back to your brain research -- when they understood the impact of some of the football images that they received, or baseball, or the more violent images or even sitcoms, the editorial choices that people were making, they felt empowered. And I think in the media, we have a responsibility to take those steps to empower kids, to understand the messages that we're receiving, to understand what's real, what's make-believe, and in the end, to understand what's right and wrong. Thank you.
(Applause.)

I think Judith's point is especially important, because one of the challenges that we face is helping our children understand what the media messages are and what the advertising messages are, and to sort of deconstruct that, if you will, so that they are less influenced by them. You know, to see sort of what the motives behind a lot of advertising are, and not to be taken in or taken advantage of.

Because one of the concerns we hear a lot about is the way young people are both depicted in the media and the way young people are increasingly viewed not as future citizens, not as individual human beings with promise and potential, but as consumers, and therefore, as manipulable objects that can be driven in one direction or another to achieve certain commercial ends.

And we see how the unrealistic images of women and girls inspire unhealthy dieting and eating disorders, we see the racial and ethnic stereotypes that are still such a part of our media, we see how common, gratuitous sex and violence are and we know that this steady diet of media images, even if we believe we are strong enough to sort them out and stand against them, send messages and affect the way people view themselves and others.

Now, our next speaker, also in our audience, has studied these issues and drawn some interesting conclusions about the implications of media's depiction of teens.

Susan Bales is the President of Frameworks Institute, a project of the College-University Resource Institute, which conducts communications research on social issues. And I'd like to ask if Susan Bales would tell us: Is there a danger in the media's portrayal of young people today and what we can do about that.

MS. BALES: Thank you, Mrs. Clinton, friends and colleagues. I think there is a serious distortion in the way that the media presents youth today. And while we talk a lot about its consequences on youth, I think we're less aware about its consequences upon us as adults -- first, as parents in the way that we view our child's peer group and teens in general, but

secondarily -- and I think even as important -- is in the way that we view ourselves as citizens and make decisions about priorities for public spending.

So I want to talk just a little bit about the research we've conducted for the last year with funding from the W.T. Grant Foundation. Looking at survey research, we see that adults believe that teens today are different than they were in the past. Only one in six adults will tell you that teens today share their moral and ethical values.

When asked what descriptors they would use to describe teens today, they're more likely to talk about materialistic and selfish teens. If you ask what they would have described teens 20 years ago, those words were more like patriotic and idealistic.

The reality, as we know, is the reality that we've talked about here today. When you ask kids what values they hold to be important, they will tell you that it's honesty and hard work, it's performance in school, and it's giving and helping others. And yet, if you present adults, parents with information about what kids are actually doing in the world, that they're volunteering, that they are attending cultural events, that they are succeeding in school, it is the rare parent that will believe these statistics.

What accounts, then, for something so powerful that it trumps our own view of reality? My friend, Catherine Hinds Knowles (pho.), who is here in the audience, says that television is a great cultural storyteller, and that we get a lot of the information that we have about the other from television.

In a review that she just did for us of the fall evening entertainment lineup and its presentation of youth, Catie found a world that sounds entirely disconnected from the world that we've described here today. She found that TV teens are entirely disconnected from their communities. In fact, they're disconnected from their parents. Parents are often shown as -- if they're shown -- uninvolved, ineffective, often they cause problems that teens must solve. The teens solve those problems in conjunction with their peer group, and the problems that they solve are often trivial and social in nature.

On the news side, a recent study from the Berkeley Media Studies Group showed that there are two issues that dominate in television news as it affects youth: Crime and education. And those have equal prominence in print coverage. So if you think about it, we are showing violence as a presence in our children's lives to the same degree that we are showing violence and crime.

The writer, Richard Rodriguez has said that the stories invent us. I think what we are seeing in the way that we view both television, news and entertainment, is that we're making some false risk assessments. We are being told that a good parent is one who protects his or her adolescent from the community at exactly the time that experts in this room would tell us that our adolescents need to be acculturated into the community.

That also has consequences for us in that the more that teenagers are removed from the community, the less actual contact we have with them, and the more likely we are to believe these false images of today's youth.

I think we need a different kind of television, news and entertainment. We need to see more kids working in soup kitchens, doing performance arts, on track for achievement, and we need to see them in ways that allow us to believe the regularity of their lives, not the dissimilarities.

I think that we need to tell ourselves a new story about youth in America today, and that unless we are able to tell ourselves a new story, we are more likely to make very bad public pronouncements and public judgments. And those judgments are more likely to go in the direction of incarceration, metal detectors and remedial decisions about children's lives,

instead of positive promotion. Thank you.
(Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: Susan, before you sit down, could I ask you to respond? As I travel around and meet with a lot of parents and others, I cannot tell you how many adults, and particularly parents, are so emotionally disturbed by this constant diet of youth violence that the news feeds. And of course, we've had some terrible, tragic incidents that have broken through national consciousness, and they are living in such a state of fear about their own children.

And because their sense of perception is at variance with their everyday reality, how does one in my position, your position, any of our positions, how do you respond? Because if you say, but you know, the statistics are that youth homicide and suicide are going down, thankfully, that the vast majority of kids are really doing a good job with their lives, that is so at variance with the story we've been told that people don't believe it. How do you move us from the story we are currently being told and, therefore, telling, to a more realistic story that will give people more of a sense of hope and empowerment over their own lives?

MS. BALES: I think it's a really important question and I think as researchers -- our innate tendency is to confront people with the facts, and what we know from the cognitive sciences is that if the facts don't fit the frame of references, it's the facts that are going to go, not the frame of reference.

Karen Pittman and I were talking about this before we walked in. We have to tell a complete story to the American public and to each other. It's not a little fact here, a little fact there. It's a narrative. It's a story about children's lives. And you can't do a focus group with Americans today without them telling you we want to see solutions and we want to see programs that work.

Everyone in this audience knows hundreds of programs that work. They are absolutely invisible in news, and the notion that kids are involved in programs is invisible on entertainment. So those are the stories I think that we have to surface that allow us to make sense of these positive statistics.

MRS. CLINTON: I'm really glad you have sort of put that on our agenda for the conference because I think it may be one of the most important -- in addition to giving parents hope and tools and ideas about connectivity, in a very practical way, this creation of a new, more accurate story that runs counter to the hysteria and the images and the stereotypes, which really paralyzes people -- because if you think nothing works, then why do you invest in anything, because it won't work anyway, so why go to the trouble of putting that after-school program in your school, or lowering class size to make the school experience more intimate, and all the things that could make a difference in the lives of kids.

And it's one of the biggest problems those of us who are in the public arena face because you come forward with solutions like this, and so often the louder voices are the punitive, anti-kid, don't invest because it won't work, kind of stories. And it's difficult to find a way to make it a more realistic view, as you're advocating. So I hope you'll write out that narrative with your colleagues and share it with us.

One of the reasons that the media can have such a great influence on how adults think about young people is that many adults no longer have any contact with a young person. A majority of adults have no personal interaction with teenagers whatsoever. We have disconnected the lives of teenagers from the lives of the majority of adults in our society.

If you live in a retirement community, part of the reason you live there is so you never have to see anybody who is below a certain age. If you live in a gated community, if you go the same way to work every day and you're in the same environment, and you don't have

teenagers, you're not involved in your community, and you don't even have sidewalks anymore in your towns or cities to walk down, or you think it's too dangerous to walk down the ones that are there -- you're not going to have that kind of interaction, and you, therefore, are prone to believe the stories that paint the worst possible picture of our young people.

Now, in contrast, our next speaker has given his life over to helping the children in his community succeed. Geoff Canada is the President and CEO of the Rheedlan Centers for Children and Families, and the author of *Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun*, a personal history of violence in America. You know, Geoff is also a hero to many for his groundbreaking work in Harlem, and he's here to tell us about what we can do to create more of those connections, and especially how we can use community organizations to help children who live in destitute and particularly disadvantaged circumstances.

Please welcome Geoff Canada.
(Applause.)

MR. CANADA: Thank you very much. I think that we have to come to grips that in America right now we have communities that some of us wouldn't drive through. We have communities where people literally fear for their lives when they go into those communities and it's the kind of places we tell our children they can't go to.

There are people living in those communities; there are families raising their children. They are struggling. When I talk to families in those communities about their hopes for their children, their first hope is that their child will be alive and will stay safe. And this is a very concrete thing. Even with the good message that things are better for lots of children and lots of communities, there are still targeted communities in this country where things are not really good for their children.

I think that we have to really figure out how we begin to work with communities that are failing. When the community itself is a threat, and a parent has real reasons to doubt that their child can move safely from home to school, from school to anyplace after school -- the playgrounds aren't working, the institutions of faith aren't working in those communities. The civic organizations, the block associations, the tenant associations -- they're not functioning. You don't have adults involved in Little Leagues. How do we expect children to flourish in those kinds of conditions. And those are the kinds of conditions lots of our children are growing up in and our families are struggling with.

We think -- and one of the things we started to do at the Rheedlan Centers for Children and Families is really just carve out an area for us. And it's the right size for us; it's 23 blocks in central Harlem, and we started something called the Harlem Children's Zone. And the idea is to work with all of the children and institutions in that community to really bring everybody together around a consensus that children are first. No matter what else you do, let's figure out how we put children first.

So we start with what we know that works. And this is not rocket science. We know all of the brain development work from zero to 3, and so we have something called a baby college where we make it accessible to all of the children and all of the infants in that area. We know about good nutrition and well-baby check-ups for expecting parents, and we make sure our parents get those. We're in the public schools. We have a terrific AmeriCorps program.

We believe in bringing these young people -- what energy, what creativity -- the very young people who are doing terrific in these environments are the ones who can give a message of hope to these other elementary school young people in a way that none of us, with this salt-and-pepper hair -- could ever do for young people. It matters tremendously that young people feel they are part of the solution.

You know, what happens is young people get such a sense of despair. Here they have all this youth and vitality, and everything suggests that you're not going to make it. Well, don't they want to get out there and show folks we are going to make it and we're going to lead this charge. One of the things that AmeriCorps does for us is it allows us to get these volunteers, get them well-trained, place them in those public schools, teach young people how to stay safe, how to deal with conflict. Young people want to remain safe. Their parents want to get involved. We think that's a critical part of this work.

Then we go right into the adolescence. You know, the one thing we do in our adolescent program is to make sure our young people can tell their own stories. We have a newspaper called Harlem Overheard that young people produce. It has a 25,000 person circulation, and it really tells it from their point of view what they're dealing with.

We have a radio show and a TV show called The Real Deal, where young people are the ones who actually put on -- they produce the show and they put on the show, and again, it tells their story. We find so many of our young people are filled with such a rage that no one knows what's going on, no one understands their condition, and they have no one to tell their side of things. When they hear about what's going on, they can't figure out a way to say, no, this is how we really feel. Giving young people a voice is absolutely critical. And especially in those teen years, when they have a real view on -- you know, young people are very sophisticated, and often we don't give them a means to sort of tell us in their very sophisticated ways what they think, with enough time. You give a young person 700-800 words to tell a story, they've got enough time to really give a point of view. And we think that's absolutely critical.

The idea is to rebuild a sense of community. And we're not the only ones doing this. People are doing this across the country. Some of the folks in this room are doing that. We think that we've got to really put a new emphasis on building community and making sure our young people know that we, as the elders in that community, are part of a community-building venture, with them as partners, that respect their talent and their energy, but really gives them the kinds of resources that we think young people need in order to do it.

And let me just say the last thing, which is I think the young people are watching us very closely for signals about whether or not we're serious about their development and their care. And I had this whole conversation with young people around summer youth employment. Boy, was that a whole issue. And they kept asking me, why doesn't this nation want us to work? What is wrong with young people having jobs in the summer? Why, if we've got billions and billions of dollars of surplus -- (applause) -- you know, this is, I think, our nation at its most cynical. And I just think that we've got to watch the messages we give to young people.

They're watching us. Sometimes people think things happen here and no one is really paying attention. And young people are saying, well, we don't understand, if they're really serious about us working and being productive and staying out of trouble this summer, how come they're not supporting us. I think we've got to really think about how we give young people messages.

This is particularly a time -- you know, the only bad thing about having such a surplus in this nation is everybody is trying to figure out what are your priorities, and where do we fit in. And we've done some terrific things in moving toward health care for young people. And I know the role that you and the President have paid in that. And also looking at after-school, and there are lots of folks who supported that. But there's lots of unfinished business in this country that I think we need to give young people a message about how we feel about them that allows them to say, you know what, they really are with us and they're rooting for us and they're giving us what we need to succeed. (Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: I really hope even more people will find out what Geoff and his colleagues are doing because it's really a comprehensive effort to make sure that young people have both the services they need, but also the support -- the personal support, so that they feel that they are partners in this venture of community building.

And I commend you for using AmeriCorps so creatively. AmeriCorps, as the President said in the very beginning, was created just five years ago, but more than 150,000 Americans have served in AmeriCorps. And I hope that we'll be increasing those numbers, because most of them are involved in serving young people -- in mentoring, in tutoring, in organizing.

And Geoff mentioned a particularly important issue, and that's after-school and summer jobs -- to go back to Laura's point about respect, responsibility and relationship. Responsibility is a key to that. And, in fact, four out of five young people do hold a job at one time or another while they are in school. And we need to do more to provide those kinds of opportunities.

And I'd like to ask Harvard anthropologist Katherine Newman, who has studied the experience of low-wage workers in low-income communities, to talk with us for a minute on this. Her book is entitled, *No Shame In My Game*. And I think all of us can look more at what can be done by employers and levels of government to provide those opportunities so that kids have more sense of success for their future.

Dr. Newman.

DR. NEWMAN: Thank you, Mrs. Clinton. I want to thank Geoff Canada for raising the crucial issue of work. It's not something we talk about very much when we think about teenagers. We think about parents, we think about communities, religious institutions, but we don't talk about the world of work because we think that's what adults do, not what teenagers do.

But I want to argue in this conference that that's a big mistake. The nation's teenagers are at work, and we need to devote some attention to what they get out of it, because the sheer size of the teenage labor force really commends us to think about it. Over half of the nation's teenagers, 16-19, are in the United States labor force. The proportion of American teens who work has increased over the last decade. About a third of the nation's teenagers work more than 35 hours a week. And their wages have risen steadily over the last 20 years.

About one in six teenage workers earned the minimum wage in 1999, but less than 2 percent of those teenage workers received the earned income tax credit, which is primarily targeted at families, and most 16-19-year-olds don't have families yet.

Work opportunity is crucial for the well-being of teenagers, especially in the neighborhoods that Geoff Canada was talking about. Their parents need them to help provide support for the households they live in. We're not talking about gold chains and sneakers here. We're talking about central contributions that teenagers make, especially to the support of poor households. They are expected to help provide for their own school expenses, for their transportation, for their books, for the tuition they pay at junior colleges in communities like Harlem. They help their parents pay for the phone bill, for the furniture they sit on, for the utilities they consume.

This pattern of teenage contribution to family well-being will not surprise anyone who either lived through, remembers, or read about the Great Depression. Because that's what teenagers did during the Great Depression, and that's what they still do in the nation's poor communities.

Now, some researchers have suggested that working is bad for teenagers because it distracts their attention from schooling. And of course, this can be the case if teenagers work too many hours. And for middle class kids, like my children, who have many, many resources, the choice to focus exclusively on school is probably quite sensible, but it's also a luxury. It's a luxury my children have to focus just on school.

Teenagers from Mr. Canada's neighborhood often find that that choice is foreclosed to them. But are these teens harmed by working? My research in central Harlem also suggests not. The structure, the discipline, the mentoring that they receive in the workplace spilled back into the schoolyard and the classroom and helps them perform better in school. It's in the workplace that employers teach them how to manage their time, how to be responsible to others, how to display and perform motivation. Those workplace lessons surface in the classroom. And the Harlem teenagers that I studied report consistently that their school performance went up when they got a job, not down.

Kids who were poised to drop out didn't, and they didn't because there were employers and managers and older workers looking over their shoulders, paying attention to how they were doing in school. And sometimes in communities that have a lot of disorganized lives around them, those adults, those employers are the only adults who are paying attention to the performance of poor teenagers who work in school. They keep after those teens, they monitor their report cards, they give them financial bonuses when they get good grades, they help them pay for their junior college tuition.

And I might add, this is a contribution employers make that goes largely unrecognized, and we should never discount the importance of civic recognition in helping employers to do the right thing by their teenagers. So if we are looking for a supply of mentors in the United States, we might think about employers as a very good source. They're not social workers, they're not charity workers, but they do an enormous amount to help youth over developmental hurdles in the course of making a living. And we ought to thank them for it.

And while we're at it -- and this is the last point I'd like to make -- I think we should recognize that it's in the work world that teenagers from all kinds of backgrounds in the United States learn about core American values. That great American mainstream out there values work and employment above any other source of honor and civic identity. And it's in the workplace that teenagers, especially those from poor and disadvantaged communities, learn the great value of being part of that mainstream. So to deny them that opportunity is to deny them access to that very central mainstream identity that they achieve in the workplace.

Thank you.
(Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: In a few minutes we're going to be saying good-bye to all of the people who are participating in this conference by the satellite link. And I'm very grateful to all of them who have taken place. I hope that they will continue these discussions, and I hope that they will look for ways that they can improve the lives of their teens and their local communities.

One of the people that we want to hear from is a young woman who knows firsthand how service and being actively involved in her community has made a difference. Gabriella Contreras is only 14, but she's been setting examples for others since she was a tiny child. She came to us through Secretary Donna Shalala's Girl Power Project, which is a national campaign to encourage girls, age 9-14, to make the most of their lives.

And, Gabriella, I hope you will tell us what young people can do to help themselves and their peers.

MS. CONTRERAS: Okay. Well, I bet you're all wondering what kind of girl power a 14-year-old has. My attitude is to motivate. Relating my personal experiences, you may realize kids don't have to be limited by their age. Allowing youth to volunteer at a young age, as we get older, we learn to be concerned, solve problems in our community.

At the age of five, I began volunteering at the elderly care home my mom, Grace Contreras, owned and managed at that time. I visited and played my violin, and I was accepted by these people there.

Recently I asked myself a very important question -- these years of our youth, are they a curse or a blessing? (Laughter.) It may be funny, but in my opinion, as youth we have the opportunities to have fun going to the movies, shopping, hanging out with our friends, and also taking on the role of questioning how things are done, searching deep within ourselves, stepping beyond the demands of homework, after-school activities with our free time, get involved, take a stand and speak up as a positive peer.

I admit it is not easy being a youth if the negative peer pressure is very evident. At the age of 9, in the 3rd grade, I moved to a new school, Ross Ridge (phonetic) Elementary Middle Magnet School. There were a lot of riots at the high school across the street, and also high schools around the city at the time. The police and the SWAT team blocked off the street and they had to break up the gang fights that were happening there.

Seeing what was happening from our classroom windows, we were frightened, we were scared. I gathered my friends during our lunchtime and our lunch hour, and we made posters saying, Stop The Violence; Give Hugs, Not Drugs -- simple sayings.

Shouting as we marched along our school fence, facing the high school, I created a club that year, Club BAD, the Bealor Don't Do Drugs Club. I met with the school principal, Dr. Congroda (pho.) Gomez, he listened to my ideas, approved the club, and annual schoolwide peace marches, to kick off the school year in a positive way.

Today, the club members include K through 8th graders who are involved in volunteering and educational projects. The club is going strong into its sixth year now. As my mom, Grace Contreras (pho.) and my dad, Richard Contreras, even though they're divorced, continue to supervise the club, enabling youth to mentor youth.

I realize what a great amount of faith, belief, respect they have for us, even at our young age. In '97, I was invited as the Arizona youth delegate to the national summit called "America's Promise," it was alliance for youth pointing kids in the right direction. I met the co-chair, which I was very grateful I got to meet, General Colin Powell. I gave a speech on creative youth volunteerism.

My mom and I attended the breakout sessions. I learned the importance of the community youth-based organizations mentoring us youth. I asked my mom to help me organize a Tucson citywide youth summit. I called it "Great Resources for Youth." Tucson and all the students, the parents, businesspeople, city and state officials attended. Everyone valued and shared this information that we brought to them.

I'm currently on the National 4H, American Lung, Mayor's Council and Library of Congress youth boards, thanks to finding out there are such youth boards out there for us. Otherwise, I wouldn't have even known. Recently, a total of 33 youth were being arrested throughout Tucson for copycat Columbine threats. I'm sure we all remember that happening. I conducted a citywide peace march, like the annual schoolwide peace marches we have at our school. The entire city came together, supporting the school, holding banners saying, "Tucson stands for peace, si se puede por la paz," yes, we can have peace, safe schools, safe streets.

Well, I created a motto I share with my club and I leave with you now. And I hold it dearly to my heart as well: Even as youth, we can make a positive difference in our home, neighborhood, school and community.

In conclusion, I challenge adults to include us, encourage us, have faith in youth of all ages in our nation. How can we as youth make a difference? One important easy way: Volunteer with us to make a difference in our communities, enable us to have a voice by organizing schoolwide and citywide peace marches, or at the little, just get involved with our daily lives. Thank you. (Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: I'd love for Gabriela's mother to stand up, and we can -- (applause) -- acknowledge you. Well, our final speaker is someone who spends all day every day with young people. We were talking before about how the majority of adults don't have any interconnection with young people. But Jay Engeln, who is a principal, in fact, the principal of the year, really is part of the adult community that cares deeply about young people.

I think it's important that we hear from someone such as he who is the Met Life National Association of Secondary Schools Principals Principal of the Year at the William J. Palmer High School in Colorado Springs. The high school has a slogan: Together, we can make a difference. And so, if you would, Mr. Engeln, if you would tell us what you recommend to schools so that they can make a difference.

MR. ENGELN: Thank you, Mrs. Clinton. I would like to begin with just a very brief story. In Washington last October, I had to give a speech to a large banquet, and it was supposed to be about 20 minutes. You can wing five minutes, but 20 minutes, you have to do a little bit of preparation, and things were not falling in place.

Until I took a tour of the President Roosevelt Memorial. And inscribed on the wall was a quote: "No country, however rich, can afford the waste of its human resources." Relevant in the Depression, but in the context of our young people, it's right on target today. And at that point, all the remarks that I was going to make just fell into place.

Youth are 24 percent of our population, but they are 100 percent of our future. They are our most valuable resource, an asset that we cannot afford to waste.

We do have a challenge in education, and that's to meet the educational needs of all students to prepare them to be successful in a rapidly changing world. But as Dr. Blum said earlier, parents can't do it alone, the schools can't do it alone, either. But working together, we can have an impact on the youth of this country.

As Mrs. Clinton stated, our motto at Palmer High School is, "Together, we can make a difference." And I truly feel this motto is the main reason for the renaissance of our school. Not too long ago, Palmer High School was discussed quite openly about being closed -- declining enrollment, test scores that were not where they should be, very transient population and decaying facilities.

But with all entities of the community coming together, parents, students, staff, community members and businesses, we have seen a major renaissance in this downtown school. Keep in mind, it's four buildings on three city blocks that are not adjacent to each other with major city streets intersecting our campus. So it's a unique location for a school.

Developing partnerships with families and parents is a concept whose time has come. Actively involving parents in their children's learning is essential. And as building administrators, teachers, we must be proactive in this endeavor. A lot of parents come to the schools for conferences, a lot of parents come to open houses, but there is a significant number of parents that do not come to the schools, for whatever reason. Maybe their last experience was not a good one. Maybe the last time they were at the school was because of

a suspension. Or, maybe, when they were in school they were suspended. And we must connect with these parents if we're going to be successful and meet the needs of all kids.

I'd like to share with you four examples at Palmer High School that we have found that have worked for us to connect with this population of parents that we were not reaching out to before.

First of all, student recognition dinners. I'm not talking about the traditional team banquets or anything of that type. But, instead, finding small successes -- maybe it's just a student going from an F grade to the D; maybe it was a student that had fewer absences one month than the previous month; or maybe it is a student that did something kind for another individual in the building.

We've developed partnerships with restaurants in the community where these kids live and have the dinners there. And we've gotten sponsors for these dinners. And we've had tremendous response from parents coming to these informal sessions, and then it's been a chance to open those lines of communication and to facilitate further involvement of those parents in our school community.

A second example is connected with an outreach, community service outreach that our school does. And that's every year we work -- our human anatomy and physiology students work to increase the minority numbers on the national blood donor register -- I'm sorry, bone marrow register. There are not enough minorities represented as far as bone marrow donors. So they take that upon themselves to solicit more members.

They go to churches in communities where the congregation is predominantly minority -- and I go with the students to support them in their endeavor, but also to use that as an opportunity to dialogue with parents, with community members and, again, to facilitate those lines of communication. I'll also go and speak at Sunday school classes and meet with other local community groups.

A third program that has worked well for us is a presence in the community. And I've heard a number of people talk about community service. I think that is a very, very important aspect to incorporate into schools, because what happens is, community service is a two-way street. If we can demonstrate to the community what we are doing for them, they are more willing to come back and do for us. And it has been a win-win relationship within our communities.

And, finally, assets for youth. I know there is going to be a speaker later today in one of the panel sessions on developmental assets. We have incorporated those assets for youth that we can support within our school -- we have incorporated them into our school goals, into our school objectives and made that a part of our life at Palmer High School.

The results we've seen: decreased dropout rate, increased graduation rate, a significant decline in discipline referrals, test scores that are among the highest of any public or private school in southern Colorado, a waiting list now to come into our school almost doubling the enrollment from where it was seven years ago, and absolutely no discussion of wanting to close the school down again.

Together, we have made a difference at Palmer High School and I am convinced, together, we can make a difference as a nation.

Thank you.
(Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I think we've heard not only an overview of issues affecting young people, but some very positive, practical solutions that can be put to work in the lives of our

young people through service and jobs and outreach and mentoring, through the parents and our families trying to be given more support to do what parents want to do -- and that is play a positive, productive role in their children's lives. The recommendations about what schools can do and community groups -- all of that together really adds up to a very positive agenda that gives each one of us something to not only think about, but actually to do.

I was struck as Mr. Engeln was making his remarks that at the very beginning our keynote speaker, Mr. Ben Casey, talked about how the Y was changing to adapt to the needs of families and young people today, providing shopping services and dry cleaning services as a way of getting the parents involved.

And I'm not at all convinced that children are any different today than they ever were; but I am absolutely convinced that our society and its institutions have changed. So I think rather than putting so much attention on trying to make our kids somehow adapt, we should be thinking of ways that our institutions can change to be more supportive of our kids and provide what our children have always needed and the kind of connectedness and support and love and discipline that every young person really wants and needs from us.

Many of the projects that the administration has tried to do over the last seven years come from research that has been done over the last 10 to 15 years. I remember being involved with the W.T. Grant Foundation some years ago, talking about what we needed to do to provide more school-to-work help and more support for teens in the work place, to make a better connection between education and work, and to provide service opportunities. We haven't done enough to implement all that we know needs to be done, but we certainly, I think now, are aware of what we should be doing.

I'm sorry that we're not going to have more time right now for discussion. But we have been running late and we need to be sure we go on to provide the opportunity in the breakout sessions that all of you are looking forward to for more debates and dialogue and more suggestions.

We've already, I think, said goodbye to our friends who were participating via satellite. But now I want to offer you a chance to break for lunch. I hope that the conversation continues at the lunch tables. And please proceed through these doors to the State Dining Room for lunch. And thank you all so much for being part of this conference.
(Applause.)

END 1:30 P.M. EDT

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2000

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202/395-2106 CELL
310/277-2000 ROOM 629
202/575-5000 SKY PAGE

MELODIE GREENE
202/456-7847 PHONE
202/456-5340 FAX
202/667-5547 HOME
WHCA PAGER #4938

PREV RON Private Residence

9:50 am DEPART Private Residence
 EN ROUTE Private Residence
 [Drive time: 40 minutes]

10:30 am ARRIVE Private Residence

10:35 am- NY SENATE 2000 BREAKFAST
12:40 pm Private Residence
 CLOSED PRESS

FORMAT:

-Upon arrival, HRC proceeds to a mix and mingle with guests.

-HRC proceeds to the backyard for a breakfast buffet.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2000

- 2 -

-Sim Farar makes welcoming remarks and introduces HRC.

-HRC makes remarks and opens optional Q&A.

-Upon conclusion of remarks or Q&A, HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 50 guests

12:45 pm

DEPART Private Residence

EN ROUTE Los Angeles International Airport

[Drive time: 1 hour 5 minutes]

1:50 pm

ARRIVE Los Angeles International Airport

DEPARTURE GREETERS:

TBD

2:00 pm

WHEELS UP LAX - Mercury Aviation

EN ROUTE San Francisco International Airport

[Flight time: 1 hour 5 minutes]

3:05 pm

WHEELS DOWN San Francisco International Airport

3:15 pm

DEPART San Francisco International Airport

EN ROUTE Women's Technology Cluster Building

[Drive time: 20 minutes]

3:35 pm

ARRIVE Women's Technology Cluster Building

3:40 pm-

PHOTO RECEIVING LINE WITH ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS

3:50 pm

Hallway - Women's Technology Cluster Building

PARTICIPANTS: 12 guests

3:55 pm-

WOMEN'S TECHNOLOGY CLUSTER ROUNDTABLE

4:40 pm

1207 Indiana Street

San Francisco, CA

Hold: TBD

Phone: TBD

Fax: TBD

OPEN PRESS/LIVE WEB CAST

FORMAT:

-HRC enters room and takes seat at roundtable.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2000

- 3 -

-Catherine Muther, Founder of WTC, makes welcoming remarks and opens discussion.

-HRC participates in informal roundtable discussion.

-Catherine Muther wraps up discussion.

-HRC views virtual ribbon cutting for new website, MsMoney.com

PARTICIPANTS: 12 roundtable participants
25 guests

4:45 pm-
5:15 pm

WOMEN'S TECHNOLOGY CLUSTER REMARKS
Women's Technology Cluster Building
OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

-Leslie Katz, San Francisco Supervisor, announces HRC and Mayor Willie Brown into the room.

-Panasonic Executive TBD makes brief remarks and introduces Mayor Willie Brown.

-Mayor Willie Brown makes brief remarks and introduces HRC.

-HRC makes remarks.

-HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: 50-60 guests

5:20 pm

DEPART Women's Technology Cluster
EN ROUTE Private Residence
[Drive time: 50 minutes]

6:10 pm

ARRIVE Private Residence

6:15 pm-
8:00 pm

NY SENATE 2000 RECEPTION
Private Residence
CLOSED PRESS

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2000

- 4 -

FORMAT:

-HRC mixes and mingles with guests (candid photos).

-Steve Westly makes welcoming remarks and introduces HRC.

-HRC makes remarks.

-HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 50-75 guests

8:05 pm

DEPART Private Residence
EN ROUTE Private Residence
[Drive time: 10 minutes]

8:15 pm

ARRIVE Private Residence

8:20 pm-

NY SENATE 2000 DINNER

10:15 pm

Private Residence
CLOSED PRESS

FORMAT:

-HRC mixes and mingles with guests (candid photos).

-HRC takes seat at head table for dinner.

-Laurene Jobs makes welcoming remarks and introduces HRC.

-HRC makes remarks.

-HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 80 guests

10:20 pm

DEPART Private Residence
EN ROUTE Moffett Air Force Base
[Drive time: approximately 30 minutes]

10:50 pm

ARRIVE Moffett Air Force Base

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2000

- 5 -

11:00 pm **WHEELS UP** Moffett Air Force Base
 EN ROUTE Westchester County Airport
 [Flight time: 4 hours 45 minutes +3 hours]

THURSDAY, MARCH 30:

6:45 am **WHEELS DOWN** Westchester County Airport

6:55 am **DEPART** Westchester County Airport
 EN ROUTE Residence, Chappaqua
 [Drive time: 15 minutes]

7:10 am **ARRIVE** Residence

March 29, 2000**TALKING IT OVER****HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**March 29, 2000

The last time I wrote about the threat that smoking presents to our children was in June of 1998. The Senate leadership had just blocked an administration bill designed to cut teen smoking in half. "The defeat of the tobacco bill," I wrote, "was a stunning example of our elected representatives putting political self-interest above the health and well-being of America's families and children."

Since I wrote that column, research shows that nearly 2 million young people -- 3,000 each day -- have started smoking. One third of them, or more than 600,000, will die prematurely as a result.

Five years ago, the Food and Drug Administration proposed rules that would have protected children from tobacco by eliminating advertising targeted to them and curbing their access to tobacco products. The industry challenged the FDA in court, and last week, the Supreme Court, in a case that has been called the most important public-health issue before the high bench in 50 years, struck down the FDA effort. Although the Court's 5-4 majority opinion affirmed the administration's view that tobacco use by children "poses perhaps the single most significant threat to public health in the United States," the majority ruled that the FDA alone does not have the authority to regulate tobacco. Rather, the Court concluded it is up to Congress either to pass legislation regulating tobacco directly, or expand the FDA's mandate to allow the agency to do so itself.

With that opinion, the ball is suddenly back on the floor of Congress -- where I hope every member will keep in mind that this case is not simply about the FDA's authority. It is about the health of our children.

Protecting our children's health is not a partisan issue. In 1998, a bipartisan group of senators, led by Republicans William Frist and John McCain, put aside partisan politics, and offered legislation that would have allowed the FDA to move ahead. Last week, similar legislation was introduced in the House. The American people care about protecting their children from tobacco. It is time for members of Congress to pay attention and pass this bill.

Both the President and the Vice President are working hard on many fronts to reach their goal of cutting teen smoking in half. Because experts agree that the most effective step we can take to decrease the rate of youth smoking is to raise the price of cigarettes significantly, the President's budget proposal includes a 25-cent increase per pack. Starting in 2004, the President's plan would impose a \$3,000 assessment on the tobacco industry for every underage smoker if the rate of youth smoking is not cut in half. This \$3,000 figure represents twice the lifetime profits the industry could expect to make from hooking one teen on cigarettes -- a policy that should go a long way toward getting the industry interested in reducing smoking by young people.

In order to help lower-income Americans quit smoking, the budget includes an important initiative to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to drug treatments that can help them stop. And the Justice Department has begun litigation to recover federal tobacco-related health costs from tobacco manufacturers.

On the state level, the President has challenged states that settled lawsuits against the tobacco companies in 1998 to live up to their promise to reduce tobacco use, particularly among children. Far too many states have failed to keep their word, despite the fact that, in some states, efforts to combat youth smoking are beginning to show dramatic results.

As a result of a comprehensive tobacco-prevention program launched in Florida by the late Gov. Lawton

Chiles in 1997, smoking rates among middle-schoolers have dropped from 18.5 percent in 1998 to 8.6 percent in 2000, a 54 percent decline. In Oregon, the drop was 32 percent among eighth-graders, and 17 percent for 11th-graders. And in Massachusetts, smoking among all high school students fell 15 percent between 1995 and 1999. These results show why every state should have a comprehensive program to reduce youth smoking.

If children can get through adolescence without smoking, chances are they won't light up as adults. But for those who start, it's hard to quit. Eighty-six percent of teens who smoke daily and try to quit are unsuccessful. They need help, and this bill would give it to them.

I would like to see all the members of Congress who do not support tobacco legislation post this sign prominently over their desk: "Each day that I fail to support tobacco legislation, 3,000 more children will start smoking, and more than 1,000 of them will die prematurely as a result." Maybe that not-so-subtle reminder will bring them around. Let's hope so. The health of our children is at stake.

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

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/WH/EOP/First_Lady/html/talking.html

Talking It Over: 2000

June 14, 2000

May 31, 2000

May 24, 2000

May 17, 2000

May 10, 2000

May 3, 2000

April 19, 2000

April 12, 2000

April 5, 2000

March 29, 2000

March 22, 2000

March 15, 2000

March 8, 2000

March 1, 2000

April 26, 2000

February 23, 2000