DEAR LORD BE GOOD TO ME THE SEA IS SO WIDE AND MY BOAT IS SO SMALL

Children's Defense Fund

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gene Sperling

FROM: Marian Wright Edelman

DATE: November 25, 1997

RE: **Fiscal Year 1999 and Beyond: Investing in Healthy, Safe, School-Ready Children**

I look forward to meeting with you on Monday at 3:00 p.m.

In developing your FY 99 budget, the Administration has an extraordinary opportunity to help shape the direction our nation will take in the next century and millennium. The resources -- whether from the budget surplus, reducing corporate welfare subsidies, restraining defense spending, new taxes on tobacco, a tobacco settlement, or redefined federal spending priorities -- are available to make the necessary investments in children. We urge you to make these investments a reality by including in your FY 99 budget the following:

Child Care:

Quality Improvements:	$1 billion a year over next five years
School-age Care:	$1 billion a year over next five years
Affordability:	$1 billion a year for the next three years $1.5 billion for fourth and $2 billion for fifth year
Head Start:	$1 billion increase a year over next five years
Youth Violence Prevention:	$500 million a year over the next five years

Each is described below.

1. <u>Child care</u>. We applaud the Administration's efforts to focus national attention on child care. It is critical, however, for the FY 99 budget to invest enough to significantly solve pressing child care problems confronting so many families and children. Our budget requests arise out of discussions before and after the recent White House Conference on Child Care and focus groups we have recently completed.

- <u>Quality: At least $1 billion a year for the next five years to help states improve the quality of child care</u>. The importance of the first three years of life in a child's development is clear. Funding should be targeted towards helping states meet the goals of ensuring that children begin school ready to learn; improving the quality of care for infants and toddlers; and ensuring that children in child care are in safe settings that are adequately supported and

25 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone 202 628 8787
Fax 202 662 3510
E-mail
cdfinfo@childrensdefense.org
Internet
www.childrensdefense.org

inspected. A variety of approaches exist to improve child care quality including increased funds for inspections to more training and education for child care providers. But all depend upon additional funds which should be linked to specific, measurable outcomes that improve program quality. Polling and focus group surveys indicate that the quality of child care is foremost on parents' minds. A strong Administration initiative to improve the quality of child care will enjoy broad public support. Members of both parties have already introduced legislation to improve child care quality. Parents and the public support strong policies that include standards to ensure that children are safe and well cared for in child care programs.

- **Before-and-after-school care. At least $1 billion a year for the next five years to help communities start, operate, and expand programs for children and youth before and after school, during school holidays, and summer months.** Parents and communities are increasingly concerned about the need for more before-and-after-school care for school-age children for good reason. Nearly five million children are home alone after-school. Juvenile crime peaks between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. These proposed funds would enroll 600,000 to 650,000 children in school-age programs. The price of not providing these services -- in juvenile crime, teen pregnancies, and other societal costs -- far outweighs their cost.

- **Affordability: At least $1 billion a year for three years, $1.5 billion in the fourth year, and $2 billion in the fifth year ($6.5 billion over five years), in the Child Care and Development Block Grant to help low-wage, working families pay for child care.** The 1996 welfare act requires millions of women to enter the workforce in low-wage jobs, joining millions of other women already in the workforce whose incomes do not adequately cover the cost of child care. We now provide child care assistance to less than one in ten eligible families. Direct subsidies, through vouchers or other means, are the most effective way of helping these families whose incomes are simply too low to benefit from tax credits or deductions. While we hear that the Administration is considering improvements in the Dependent Care Tax Credit (DCTC) to help families pay for child care and support mothers who choose to stay at home, tax credits are an ineffective mechanism for helping families in greatest need of assistance. The bulk of DCTC funds go to families earning over $30,000. It is critical that any Administration initiative to help families with the costs of child care focuses first on families with incomes below $35,000. We estimate that up to 450,000 children in low-wage working families would benefit from the additional proposed funds for the CCDBG program in the first three years. Additional increased funding levels are proposed for the fourth and fifth years to address the increased demand for child care assistance that will result as the work requirements of the 1996 welfare act take effect throughout the nation.

- **Child and Adult Care Food Program Improvements: $88 million a year for five years to enable CACFP to serve more children better.** Programmatic changes are needed in the Child and Adult Care Food program (CACFP) to better serve children both in child care and after-school settings. The eligibility age for CACFP should be raised to 18 so that programs serving adolescents can feed them. Changes are needed to make it easier for schools providing before-and-after-school care to participate in CACFP and for recreation programs and youth programs to offer CACFP snacks and/or meals. For-profit centers that serve significant (25%) numbers of children eligible for free and reduced price school lunches should be allowed to participate in CACFP; family child care homes should have their costs per meal increased; and sponsoring agency administrative costs should be increased. Finally, child care centers and family child care homes should have the option of serving children a fourth meal or a snack.

2. Head Start. At least $1 billion a year increase for the next five years. If all children are to enter school ready to learn, Head Start must be able to serve more children, reach families earlier, and expand hours to help families moving from welfare to work. We are disappointed that the Administration backed away from its initial commitment to fully fund Head Start by 1998, and urge additional funds to allow Head Start to serve more children, maintain program quality, gradually expand Early Head Start to serve younger children, and have the flexibility to extend hours and months of operation to serve working families.

3. Youth violence prevention. At least $500 million a year for the next five years to support a juvenile justice prevention strategy, including a set aside in any new juvenile justice legislation for prevention activities. Congress is moving forward with a juvenile crime bill (S.10) which would turn the clock backward for children and sets aside no money for prevention activities. It also has just passed a Commerce, State, Justice appropriations bill for FY 98 authorizing a new "juvenile accountability block grant" that allocates no money for prevention activities. We hope the President will use his veto pen to block these very bad policies from becoming law, and provide stronger leadership in directing attention to the importance of effective juvenile crime and violence prevention activities and keeping children safe. Rand and other studies have shown that more costly prisons do not work and all of us must be concerned about the growing criminalization of minority youth and their treatment as adults. We will be mounting a strong campaign against S.10 but the Administration's leadership is crucial

4. Youth jobs. We urge the Administration to develop a youth jobs initiative to address widespread youth unemployment and hopelessness. Although the overall unemployment rate has dropped to new lows, the lack of employment opportunities for young people, especially in low-income communities, remains a deep and serious problem. The unemployment rate for youths ages 16 to 19 in October was 15.3, over three times the 4.7 over-all unemployment rate. Yet funding for employment programs for at-risk youths has steadily declined. The Job Training Partnership Summer Youth Employment program currently provides about $130 million -- drastically below its pre-rescission 1995 level of nearly $600 million. The Administration can play a leadership role in promoting a youth employment initiative. Over the next fifteen years, the number of young adults ages 18 to 24 will grow by 22 percent or 5.4 million. We need to begin now to address the problems many of these young workers will face and give them a sense that staying in school and avoiding anti-social behavior will be rewarded with a job.

5. Housing, education, child health, child welfare, and welfare-to-work. A number of other budget areas affecting children need to be adequately funded in the FY 99 budget and beyond including: **Child Welfare:** We are disappointed that the increases needed to make the new adoption and foster care legislation workable were not included in the final legislation, and urge the Administration to work towards making those resources available in the future as the new legislation takes effect. **Child Health:** We deeply appreciate the Administration's leadership and support in expanding child health coverage. We believe that the $48 billion allocated over the next decade under this new law will reach at least half of the more than 10 million uninsured

complete this task. **Housing:** Inadequate housing plagues millions of families with children. Homeless shelters and rat-infested, overcrowded, unsafe housing are no places for children to grow up. This Administration needs to address the housing crisis in America in a determined fashion to prevent a generation of young people from growing up without adequate shelter or any sense of place and home. We strongly urge that the FY 99 budget include adequate funding for housing programs for low-income families. **Welfare-to-work:** More needs to be done to address the needs of those with the greatest barriers to employment like substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, and illiteracy problems to enable these populations to move from welfare to work.

g:/general/childcare/drafts/sperling.doc

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RICHARD STONE
Chairman

NATHAN J. DIAMENT
Director

BETTY EHRENBERG
Director of International and Communal Affairs

December 24, 1997

Ms. Jennifer Klein
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
West Wing, Second Floor
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Klein,

I write, as you suggested in our telephone conversation, to outline our thinking at the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations with regard to the essential elements of a new federal child care support initiative.

As the umbrella organization for one thousand traditional synagogues throughout the United States, we are most mindful of two aspects of the child care issue. The first aspect is that parents must be fully empowered to choose whatever child care arrangement they feel suits them best; whether one parent stays at home or both join the workforce must not be a factor in the availability of government support for their child care. Similarly, whether the child care is provided by a family member, a privately employed individual or through a day care center should be left for the parents to decide and for the government to support. While our government often attempts to influence private behavior through its laws, including its tax laws, we in the Orthodox Jewish community feel strongly that such attempts are inappropriate with regard to child care; decisions must be left to parents to make responsibly in a manner consistent with their personal values.

The second aspect of which we are mindful is that many parents choose to utilize child care provided by religious institutions. Whether it is the local church, synagogue or mosque or, for that matter, an independent day care center that embraces a religious outlook – parents often seek religious environments to care for their impressionable children. Again, the government's policies must respect these choices. Thus, funds made available – whether directly to child care providers or to parents, whether as tax credits,

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
333 Seventh Avenue ★ New York, NY 10001
Tel: 212-563-4000 ★ Fax: 212-564-9058 ★ E-mail: ipa@ou.org

tax deductions, DCAP contributions or any other mechanism – must be equally available to institutions and parents who utilize faith-based child care as to those who do not.

We recognize that there are many more elements to any productive child care package that must be considered including addressing the "marriage penalty" (which we favor eliminating) and we look forward to working productively with you on those as well. The above-outlined elements, however, to which we know that your office and the President are sensitive, are those that we in the traditional Jewish community believe to be essential and central to any child care package.

Once again, thank you for considering our views on this critical issue; we look forward to working with you.

Best wishes for a happy new year.

Sincerely,

Nathan J. Diament

NCECW Fax Cover Sheet

National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force
• 733 15th Street NW Suite 1037 • Washington DC 20005 •
• p 202.737.7700 or 800.U.R.WORTHY • f 202.737.0370 •
• e-mail ncecw@ncecw.org •

Date: 12/10/97

To: Jen Klein

From: Marci Andrews

Pages: 3

Remarks:

Marcy Whitebook asked me to send the attached recommended provisions to you. I look forward to working with you.

—Marci

FAX Memorandum

Wednesday, December 10, 1997

To: Jennifer Klein
From: Marcy Whitebook and Marci Andrews
Pages: 2

Re: ***Licensing Standards: Key Provisions for Child Protection in Child Care Facilities***

Public concern about the health and safety of children currently ranks as one of the most widely discussed topics in American society. As more and more children spend at least a portion of their day in the care of someone other than their parents, we have become acutely aware of the need to effectively maintain high health and safety standards in all child care settings. In response to this growing concern a number of proposals such as criminal background checks and the installation of video recording devices in child care facilities have been recommended as methods for protecting our children. Few suggestions, though, have focused on strengthening existing licensing enforcement. Yet violations of licensing regulations, such as the presence of unqualified personnel or inadequate adult/child ratios, regularly threaten the safety of children. In devising a plan for protecting our children, one strategy that is often overlooked is the utilization of child care workers and parents as "internal regulators" of child care facilities. Since child care workers are often the best "eyes and ears" for monitoring the health and safety of children, they could be instrumental in working with parents to protect children. We, therefore, recommend that key provisions be enacted for child protection in child care facilities.

Provisions

All states should be encouraged to require all licensed child care facilities to:

1. clearly post information outlining the key state licensing regulations for safe child care conditions, including staff/child ratios, group size, and required qualifications of personnel;

2. clearly post information identifying the licensing agency, how licensing regulations can be obtained, and local telephone numbers where anyone can report suspected violations;

3. show evidence that on the date of hire all staff are made aware of licensing regulations and proper procedures for reporting suspected violations;

4. show evidence that on the date of enrollment all parents are made aware of licensing regulations and proper procedures for reporting suspected violations;

*5. instruct employers that they may not fire, demote, suspend, or discriminate against employees when violations are reported according to proper procedures. They also may not threaten employees with any of these actions when violations are reported according to proper procedures;

*6. instruct employers that they may not retaliate against employees who refuse to perform work in violation of the regulations after notifying the employer of the violation.

* These provisions can be modeled on the legislation, currently in effect in California and Illinois, which protects employees who report violations and requires employer notification of suspected violations prior to reporting to the licensing agency.

NACCRRA

National Association of Child Care
Resource and Referral Agencies

May 5, 1997

The Honorable William S. Cohen
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Arlington, VA

Dear Secretary Cohen:

Thank you for the interest and support of quality care for our youngest children and for the recognition that the quality of early care and education we provide for them is a critical national and local issue.

On behalf of NACCRRA's 550 community-based member organizations, who have worked long and hard to create a quality child care system with extremely restrained resources, I welcome your leadership in the Department of Defense to use "lessons learned from the Military Child Development Programs to improve the quality of child care".

I firmly believe the military child care system offers valuable lessons appropriate to the community at large--and they are simple:

1. Identify federal funds to compensate child care workers at levels appropriate to their responsibility and training--as the military does.
2. Identify federal funds to provide subsidies for parents whose income does not allow for a quality care choice--as the military does.
3. Set high standards and provide the resources necessary to meet them, and enforce those standards--as the military does.
4. Maintain a child care infrastructure which will offer referral and subsidy to parents, training and resources to providers and data to inform planning for child care needs

Although it is well known that all child care is *local* we agree that federal involvement is needed. Fortunately, the federal government already has the infrastructure for quality child care in all of American civilian communities. The Child Care Bureau in the Department of Health and Human Services interacts with the child care administrators in every state, and they in turn support local child care efforts with available state and federal funds. Adding the resources available to the military into this system will be a great help.

As a representative of 550 community-based child care resource and referral programs, nationwide, I am intimately aware of the tremendous support our *local* infrastructure offers to all the stakeholders in the child care system--parents, providers, employers, funders, and planners. I am confident that with our resources combined, and with the DOD assistance and direction, we will be well-positioned to reach the quality child care goals in communities across the nation. I look forward with great interest and enthusiasm to working with you in pursuit of these goals under the President' six month time frame. I would be happy to meet with your staff to discuss models of effective child development practices and to forge a path for its immediate implementation. Our meeting certainly would be a tremendous help to communities nationwide who know firsthand the intricacies involved in implementing quality child care. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Yasmina S. Vinci
Executive Director

NACCRRA

National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

May 5, 1997

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for the interest and support of quality care for our youngest children and for the recognition that the quality of early care and education we provide for them is a critical national and local issue.

On behalf of NACCRRA's 550 community-based member organizations, who have worked long and hard to create a quality child care system with extremely restrained resources, I welcome your direction to the Secretary of Defense to use "lessons learned from the Military Child Development Programs to improve the quality of child care".

At the recent Brain Development Conference, the First Lady alluded to the fact that the child care community holds ubiquitous, yet varied views on the delivery of quality child care. There is consensus, however; among the child care community of experts, that quality results are achieved primarily by setting standards and providing the financial resources needed to meet the standards. This is precisely what delineates child care available to the military and that available to civilians. For a long time, the civilian child care community has labored valiantly to offer quality services, but without a fair and just level of support from federal, state and local communities. Instead, unfortunately, we have had to ask the parents of our youngest children to shoulder most of the responsibility for funding the child care system.

I firmly believe the military child care system offers valuable lessons appropriate to the community at large--and they are simple:
1. Identify federal funds to compensate child care workers at levels appropriate to their responsibility and training--as the military does.
2. Identify federal funds to provide subsidies for parents whose income does not allow for a quality care choice--as the military does.
3. Set high standards and provide the resources necessary to meet them, and enforce those standards--as the military does.
4. Maintain a child care infrastructure which will offer referral and subsidy to parents, training and resources to providers and data to inform planning for child care needs.

1319 F Street, NW • Ste 810 • Washington, DC 20004-1106
Tel: (202) 393-5501 Fax: (202) 393-1109

Although it is well known that all child care is local (to paraphrase the late Tip O'Neill), we agree that federal involvement is needed. Fortunately, the federal government already has the infrastructure for quality child care in all of American civilian communities. The Child Care Bureau in the Department of Health and Human Services interacts with the child care administrators in every state, and they in turn support local child care efforts with available state and federal funds. Adding the resources available to the military into this system will be a great help.

As a representative of 550 community-based child care resource and referral programs, nationwide who support all stakeholders in the child care system--- parents, providers, employers, funders, and planners-- I have requested Secretary Cohen to offer assistance and cooperation in carrying out your directive in communities across the nation. Lastly, it would be a tremendous help to thee communities, who know firsthand the intricacies involved in the delivery of quality child care, that we arrange a meeting to discuss cooperative efforts.

Sincerely,

Yasmina S. Vinci
Executive Director

c: Hon. Ted Kennedy
Hon. Donna Shalala
Hon. William Cohen

encs.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

December 19, 1997

Jennifer Kline
Special Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Jennifer:

We are writing to thank you for the opportunity you've given us over the past few weeks to convey to you our views on the child care initiative that is under discussion, and to underscore our overriding concern: that the Administration's initiative be far-reaching and well-funded. In our view, to constitute an adequate investment in improving the availability, affordability and quality of child care, the Administration's initiative must include a funding commitment on the order of $20 billion over 5 years.

We believe that the next session of Congress presents an unparalleled opportunity to make serious advances in child care policy, in light of the stated commitment of the President, as well as the First Lady, on this issue, and the strong interest shown by members of Congress in both Houses and from both parties. We urge the Administration to take full advantage of this opportunity by crafting a comprehensive child care initiative and dedicating adequate resources to it.

We are enclosing our latest piece documenting the stake that women and their families have in effective child care policy, and we stand ready to work with you to move this effort forward in every way we can.

Sincerely,

Duff

Nancy Duff Campbell, Co-President

Judy Appelbaum

Judith C. Appelbaum, Senior Counsel and Director of Legal Programs

Cristina Firvida, Counsel

Enclosure

11 Dupont Circle, NW • Suite 800 • Washington, DC 20036 • (202) 588-5180 • FAX (202) 588-5185

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

OVER 20 YEARS ADVANCING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

WOMEN'S STAKE IN IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY, AFFORDABILITY, AND QUALITY OF CHILD CARE

The child care needs of American women and their families have increased dramatically in recent years, as women with children have entered the paid workforce in unprecedented numbers. *Seven out of ten American women with children under the age of 18 -- and nearly eight out of ten women with school-age children -- work in the paid labor force today*, representing a major societal change since the 1940's when fewer than one in five women with children worked outside the home. Working parents know that providing their children with a safe and nurturing child care environment can make an important contribution to their children's healthy development. Yet high-quality child care is too often unaffordable or simply not available; recent studies have shown that most child care and early education in the United States is of mediocre to poor quality. Women and their families thus have a tremendous stake in public policies that will help make high-quality child care available and affordable to those who need it.

Women have another interest in effective child care policies as well: as child care providers. The vast majority of child care providers in this country -- some 98% -- are women. These women are working in a demanding occupation, charged with providing loving care and a healthy learning environment for the children entrusted to them. Yet the compensation these teachers and care-givers receive -- between \$6,000 and \$13,000 per year, on average, often with no benefits -- shortchanges not only the workers but also the children in their care, because the lack of decent wages and career advancement opportunities in child care make it difficult to attract and retain trained, qualified care-givers.

Women thus have a profound and dual interest in the enactment of effective child care policies. As parents, they need access to high-quality child care that will help their children learn and grow. As providers of child care services, they need compensation, training and advancement opportunities that will reflect the value of their important work while enhancing their skills and the quality of the care they provide to our nation's children.

It is not surprising, then, that child care is high on the list of working women's concerns.[1]

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER, WASHINGTON, DC, DECEMBER 1997

11 Dupont Circle, NW • Suite 800 • Washington, DC 20036 • (202) 588-5180 • FAX (202) 588-5185

I. Working Families and the Need for Child Care

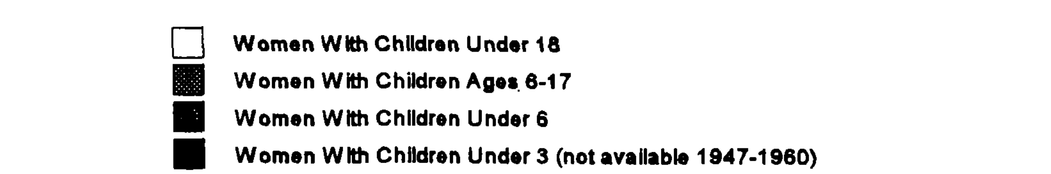
A Large Majority of American Women With Children Work Outside the Home

Over 70% American women with children under age 18 (71%), and over three-quarters with children between the ages of 6 and 17 (78%), are in the paid labor force.[2] Even the majority of mothers of pre-schoolers now work outside the home -- 63% of women with children under age 6,[3] and 54% of women with children under age 3,[4] are in the paid labor force. A majority of these women work *full time* -- over 70% of all mothers in the paid labor force with children under age 18, almost 70% of these mothers with children under age 6, and over 65% of these mothers with children under age 3 are working full time.[5]

These labor force participation rates reflect a steady and dramatic increase over the last 50 years, as shown in the chart below. In 1947, at the end of World War II, only 19% of women with children under age 18 were in the paid labor force. By 1960, that number had jumped to nearly one-third, by 1980 it was over half, and by 1990 it was over two-thirds.[6] Similarly, in 1947, only 12% of women with children under age 6 were in the paid labor force; by 1960 that number had climbed to over 20%, by 1980 it was over 46%, and by 1990 it was over 58%.[7] And as women have moved into the labor force in greater numbers, they have increasingly taken jobs that are both full time and year round, partly due to economic necessity and partly due to their movement into traditionally male-dominated occupations that require full-time, year-round work.[8]

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES OF WOMEN WITH CHILDREN

SELECTED YEARS 1947-1996



Sources:

1. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, 1996, Table 5.

2. U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means 1996 Green Book, Table 10-1.

Mothers working outside the home today include married women as well as mothers who are sole heads of their households. In nearly 70% of married couples with children under age 18, the mother is employed, and 70% of these women are working full time.[9] Over 70% of mothers who are sole heads of household with children under age 18 are employed, and 80% of these women are working full time.[10]

Today, only 13% of all families,[11] and 25% of married-couple families,[12] fit the traditional model of husband as wage-earner and wife as full-time homemaker.

In short, it is an undeniable fact of American life today that a large and steadily growing majority of women with children -- married and single, with children of all ages from pre-school to teens -- must look to child care to provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children during working hours. In addition, increasing numbers of women seeking a college education have children, and these women, too, need affordable, high-quality child care if they are to have access to the enhanced job prospects and increased earning power that a college degree can bring them.

Why Women Work: To Support Their Families

Most women who work outside the home do so as a result of economic necessity. Some 8.7 million households with children -- one-quarter of all U.S. households with children -- are headed by women alone (women who are divorced, separated, widowed or never married).[13] These women must earn a living in order to feed, clothe, house and otherwise sustain themselves and their children. Child support alone does not enable these women to provide for their children, because so few child support orders are established or enforced, and when they are, the amount collected is generally insufficient to contribute significantly to meeting the demands of raising a child.[14]

Most married women, as well, work because their families depend in large measure on their income. Married women who work contribute, on average, 42% of their household income.[15] Surveys of working women yield similar findings. In a 1997 survey of working women, more than half of the married women respondents (52%) reported that they contribute half or more of their household income[16], and in a 1995 study roughly half of employed women in married couples (48%) reported that they contributed half or more of their household income.[17] A wife's income can often mean the difference to a family between living below the poverty line and living above it: one in five married women with children who do not work outside the home live in poverty, while only one in one hundred married women with children who do work full-time live in poverty.[18] In addition, some married women work in order to protect against complete financial dependence on a spouse and being left with no job skills and inadequate means of support in the event of divorce -- a concern that is well-founded, in light of the inadequacy of child support awards, as noted above.

Many Families Need Help Paying for Child Care

Working parents who rely on child care often have a hard time paying for it. For families with children between the ages of three and five, at all income levels, child care is the third greatest expense after housing and food.[19] Nationally, child care consumes between 6% and 25% of a family's income.[20] However, one study of child care prices in six cities found that, for a minimum-wage worker, the average cost of care for an infant in a child care center would be at least 50% of the family's annual income.[21]

Child care costs vary by both the age of the child and the kind of child care arrangement a family uses, but in 1993, the most recent year for which Census data are available, the average child care cost for a pre-school age child was $79 per week, or $4,100 a year.[22] More recent data suggest that the cost of child care today can range from $4,000 to $10,000 annually.[23] Yet half of young families with children earn less than $20,000 a year,[24] and mothers who are sole heads of households earn even less --$18, 261 annually, on average-- making about one third of what married couples with children earn, and one half of what fathers with stay-at-home mothers are paid.[25]

Clearly, then, many working families need help meeting their child care expenses.

High-quality Child Care Is Often Unavailable

Working parents need access not just to affordable child care, but to a child care setting that is safe and nurturing and will contribute to their children's healthy development. Abundant research establishes that high-quality child care and early education can have a positive impact on a child's social, emotional, and cognitive development, and is strongly linked to school achievement. Indeed, an examination of a broad range of research on the impact of early childhood programs on children's development found that good programs can affect children's long-term success in areas such as school achievement, higher earnings as adults, and decreased involvement with the criminal justice system.[26] Recent scientific research on brain development shows that the first three years of life are particularly critical, in that an adverse environment can compromise the child's brain function and overall development and have a long-lasting impact on the child's well-being and ability to learn.[27]

Recent studies have shown, however, that the quality of most child care and early education available to working families in the U.S. is mediocre to poor.[28] One national study found that half of rooms in child care centers serving babies and toddlers provided such poor quality care as to jeopardize the children's health, safety and development.[29] Studies of home-based care produced equally troubling results.[30] Many young children are being cared for in settings where basic sanitary conditions are not met for diapering and feeding; safety problems are endangering infants; warm, supportive relationships with adults are lacking; and books and toys required for physical and intellectual growth are missing.[31]

Constructive activities for school-age children and youth are also critical to helping their development and keeping them out of trouble. Studies have indicated that school-age children who are left alone after school are at greater risk of truancy, risk-taking behavior, substance abuse, poor grades, and stress.[32] Indeed, arrests for juvenile crime peak during the after-school hours.[33] Yet it is estimated that nearly five million children are left unsupervised after school each week, and many children are in settings that do not help them grow and learn.[34] The problem is most acute in low-income communities, where fewer before- and after-school programs are offered.[35]

* * *

As shown, American women and their families have an enormous stake in improving the availability of affordable, high-quality child care and early education for infants and toddlers as well as activities and programs for school-age youth during their out-of-school time.

II. The Early Childhood Workforce: Women As Child Care Providers

The child care workforce is 98% female, and one-third women of color.[36] These workers -- approximately 2.3 million early childhood teachers and teachers' assistants, family child care providers, and in-home providers[37] -- carry the responsibility of providing a safe, nurturing, and stimulating setting for the children entrusted to them each day. The services these women provide can have a critical impact on the successful development of the children in their care.

Especially in light of their tremendous responsibility, child care workers are shockingly undercompensated. The U.S. Department of Labor reports that, in 1996, the median weekly salary for a family child care provider was $118 per week, which is $6,136 annually, based on 52 weeks of wages. *This is below the poverty threshold* for a one-person household.[38] For an early childhood teaching assistant, the median weekly salary was $231 per week, or $12,012 annually, and for a worker in a child care center it was $253 per week, or $13,156 annually.[39] Moreover, many child care workers receive little if anything in benefits from their employers. Even among child care centers, fewer than one-third provide health insurance to their staff.[40]

Child care workers thus earn, on average, far less than the per capita median income for all workers ($18,136 in 1996)[41], and less than the average earnings for bus drivers ($20,600), garbage collectors ($20,500), or bartenders ($16,000).[42] This is despite the fact that child care workers are better educated, on average, than the general population (in that, for example, higher percentages of child care teachers have post-secondary education).[43]

In effect, then, low-paid child care workers are subsidizing the child care system with their forgone wages. In order to support themselves, many child care workers are forced to hold second jobs, live with their parents, rely on a second income, or forego health insurance and medical care. And, not surprisingly, many do not stay long in child care: one-third of all child care teachers leave their centers each year.[44]

This system is shortchanging not only the providers, but the children as well. The compensation of child care staff is clearly linked to the quality of care and education children receive. According to one study, "teachers' wages, their education and specialized training were the most important characteristics that distinguish poor, mediocre, and good-quality centers."[45] Another study identified staff wages as the most important predictor of the quality of care children receive: better quality centers paid higher wages, hired teachers with more education and training, and experienced lower staff turnover.[46] And reducing turnover is critical, because the stability of the relationship between the child and the care-giver is important to the child's social development.[47]

For all of these reasons, a serious investment in child care must include measures to improve child care jobs by, for example, investing in training and educational opportunities in child care and child development, linking training with improved compensation, and positioning new providers for upward career mobility in the field. A number of model programs have demonstrated success in this area. For example, the U.S. Department of Defense, in its Military Child Development System, ties wages and advancement for its child care workers to training and education, and in so doing has significantly reduced turnover and thereby improved the morale and motivation of care givers and the quality of care.[48]

III. Critical Components of Effective Child Care Policy

An effective child care initiative must ensure that all families have access to affordable, high-quality child care for infants and toddlers as well as school-age children. It must include the following components.

(1) Help Working Families Pay for Child Care

Without assistance, the cost of decent child care is beyond the reach of many low- and moderate-income families. To help these families with their child care expenses:

-- The Child Care and Development Block Grant should be substantially expanded to enable states to better serve eligible families; and

-- The Dependent Care Tax Credit should be improved to better meet the needs of families, by making the credit refundable and adjusting the sliding scale of percentages of eligible expenses that can be claimed and raising the limits on eligible expenses.

(2) Protect the Health and Safety of Children by Improving the Quality of their Care and Education

A stronger child care infrastructure must be created, through funds to states for:

-- Improved licensing standards and enforcement, including sufficient staff to adequately monitor and inspect programs to reduce the risk of harm;
-- Increased reimbursement for programs meeting high-quality standards;
-- Policies to improve staff compensation and benefits in order to attract qualified staff and reduce staff turnover;
-- Scholarships for care givers pursuing a degree in early childhood education;
-- Statewide staff development systems and policies that help to improve training for staff;
-- Targeted funding to enable child care and early education programs to offer comprehensive services through linkages and support from health, social services, and mental health systems;
-- Improved consumer education efforts, including the expansion of local resource and referral programs; and
-- Support to child care and early educations programs to use technology, such as long distance learning, more effectively.

In addition, the Higher Education Act should be amended to allow loan forgiveness to students who earn degrees in early childhood education and related disciplines and work in child care settings, and to provide targeted support to campus-based child care centers.

(3) Expand Good Care for Infants and Toddlers

Substantial funding should be made available for states to strengthen and enrich programs serving very young children, as well as increase support to parents of young children and other care givers. Specifically, funds should be available for activities such as:

-- Operating family child care networks that serve infants and toddlers;
-- Expanding the supply of infant and toddler care, especially for care that is in short supply;
-- Supporting initiatives to increase the compensation of care givers caring for very young children;
-- Providing specialized training for care givers working with infants and toddlers;
-- Expanding resource and referral programs;
-- Assisting programs serving young children in becoming accredited;
-- Helping child care programs serving young children to link with other essential services in the community; and
-- Providing parenting education and support programs.

In addition, the Family and Medical Leave Act should be expanded to cover more workplaces and employees, and to provide leave for a broader range of family needs. Strong family leave policies are critical, as they enable working parents to stay home during the critical early months of a child's life or when a child is seriously ill, and to play an active role in their children's early development.

(4) Keep Children and Youth Safe and Productive through Better Use of Out-of-School Time (School-Age Care)

Sufficient funds must be made available to local communities to support before- and after-school, summer, and weekend activities for more children and youth. These activities should be available in a range of settings, including schools, child care settings, homes, and community and youth centers. Resources should be used to start, operate, and expand programs; support staff training and professional development, accreditation, and program assessment and improvement; and facilitate coordination that can make the most of public and private resources.

(5) Continue Support for Head Start and the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Head Start is an essential component of any initiative to strengthen families' access to strong early learning experiences. The Head Start reauthorization should continue the program on its path toward serving all eligible children. It should also recognize the growing need to reach younger children by expanding funds available for Early Head Start.

The reauthorization of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) should make it possible for for-profit child care centers serving low-income children to participate in CACFP, allow programs to serve school-age children up to age 18, and restore the option of a fourth meal or snack for children spending extended hours in child care centers and family child care homes.

The National Women's Law Center is a non-profit organization that has been working since 1972 to advance and protect women's legal rights. The Center focuses on major policy areas of importance to women and their families including child and adult dependnet care, child support, employment, education, reproductive rights and health, public assistance, tax reform, and social security--with special attention given to the concerns of low income women.

REFERENCES

1. *See, e.g.*, Ask a Working Woman, a report on the national survey for the Working Women's Department, AFL-CIO (1997); Women: the New Providers, Whirlpool Foundation study by Families and Work Institute (May 1995).

2. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Characteristics of Families, Current Population Survey, 1996, Table 5. These percentages understate how many women raising children are in the paid labor force because they reflect only women raising their *own* children, and do not include the many women who are raising grandchildren, nieces and nephews, or other related children.

3. *Id.*

4. Employment Characteristics of Families, Table 6.

5. Tabulations based on data from Employment Characteristics of Families, Tables 5 and 6. Of *all* mothers of children under age 18, 48% work full time; of all mothers of children under age 6, 39% work full time; and of all mothers of children under age 3, 37% work full time.

6. U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means, 1996 Green Book, Table 10-1.

7. *Id.*

8. U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, "Facts on Working Women: 20 Facts on Women Workers," Sept. 1996.

9.Tabulations based on data from Employment Characteristics of Families, Tables 5 and 6.

10. *Id.*

11. U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, "Facts on Working Women: Child Care Workers," (Nov. 1997).

12. Tabulation based on data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Money Income in the United States: 1996, Current Population Reports, Consumer Income, No. P60-197 (September 1997), Table 6.

13. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Household & Family Characteristics: March 1996, Current Population Reports, No. P20-295, (June 1997), Table 16.

14. In 1991, the most recent year for which these data are available, only 38% of custodial mothers actually received any child support payments, and the payments received on average were approximately only $148 per month per child. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Child Support for Custodial Mothers and Fathers: 1991, Current Population Reports,

Consumer Income, Series P-60, No. 187.

15. Tabulation based on Money Income, Table 4.

16. Ask A Working Woman, p. 8.

17. Women: the New Providers, p. 33.

18. U.S. Department Of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Poverty in the United States: 1996, Current Population Reports, Consumer Income, No. P60-198, Table 3.

19. U.S. Department Of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract: 1997, Table 711 (1997).

20. What Does it Cost to Mind Our Preschoolers?, Table 3.

21. Clark and Long, Child Care Prices: A Profile of Six Communities -- Final Report (The Urban Institute 1995).

22. Caspar, L. What Does It Cost to Mind Our Preschoolers?, Current Population Reports, Household Economic Studies, P70-52 (Washington, D.C.: Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Sept. 1995). The average weekly cost for a family using family day care was $52, or $2,700 annually; for parents using in-home babysitters or organized child care centers, it was $65 per week, or $3,400 annually. *Id.*

23. *Child Care Information Exchange*, July 1996.

24. Sherman, Arloc, *Rescuing the American Dream* (Washington D.C.: Children's Defense Fund, Sept. 1997) p. 21. A young family is defined as onein which the head of the household is younger than 30 years old.

25. Tabulations based on Bureau of the Census, Money Income, Tables 6 and 12. The median income of married couples with children is $51, 768, and the median income of married men who have children and whose wives are not in the labor force is $38, 835. Bureau of the Census, Money Income, Table 6.

26. *See, e.g.,* The Future of Children: Long-Term Outcomes of Early Childhood Programs, Center for the Future of Children and David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Vol. 5, No. 3 (Winter 1995).

27. Carnegie Corporation's Starting Points Task Force, 1994.

28. *See, e.g.,* Helburn et al., Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes Study (1995).

29. *Id.*

30. Galinsky et al., The Study of Children in Family Child Care and Relative Care: Highlights of Findings, Families and Work Institute 1994.

31. Helburn et al., *supra.*

32. Dwyer, et al., "Characteristics of Eighth-Grade Students Who Initiate Self-Care in Elementary and Junior High School," *Pediatrics*, 86, 1990, pp. 448-454.

33. U.S. Department of Justice, Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1997 Update on Violence (June 1997).

34. School-Age Child Care Project, Fact sheet on school-age children, Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College, September 1996.

35. Data from U.S. Department of Education, The Condition of Education: 1993, National Center for Education Statistics 1993.

36. Making Work Pay in the Child Care Industry, National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force (1997).

37. U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, "Facts on Working Women: Child Care Workers."

38. Poverty in the United States, Table A.

39. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey 1996.

40. Making Work Pay, *supra.*

41. Money Income, Table A.

42. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, Current Population Survey (1996).

43. National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force, "PROFILE: the Child Care Work Force," (comparing data from Whitebook et al., Who Cares? Child Care Teachers and the Quality of Care in America, Final Report, National Child Care Staffing Study, Child Care Employee Project, 1990, and from U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey).

44. Making Work Pay, *supra.*

45. Helburn, et al., *supra.*

46. Whitebook et al.,*supra. See also* NAEYC Accreditation as a Strategy for Improving Child Care Quality, National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force (1997).

47. Whitebook et al., *supra.*

48. Department of Defense, "Questions and Answers on the Military Child Care Program," and "Child Development Program: Lessons Learned."

·ⁱrican
ademy of
ediatrics

Department of Government Liaison
American Academy of Pediatrics
The Homer Building
601 Thirteenth Street, NW
Suite 400 North
Washington, DC 20005
202/347-8600
800/336-5475
Fax: 202/393-6137
E-mail: kids1st@aap.org
Web Site: http://www.aap.org

December 19, 1997 -- BY MESSENGER

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare for your State-of-the-Union address, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) would like to respond to your request for suggestions about federal policy to improve the availability and affordability of high quality child care for our nation's children.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) represents 53,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.

As professionals concerned about child health and development, we were delighted that you and the First Lady convened White House conferences on early brain development and on child care. The suggestions that follow reflect our continuing awareness of the connection between early brain development and the crucial importance of all caregivers during a child's early years of life. The Academy views child care as an opportunity to ensure that young children receive positive adult support toward their developmental growth, while safeguarding their health and safety.

The Academy applauds the very successful Child Care Conference and the policy initiatives you announced there -- the establishment of a business working group on child care, use of community service programs for after-school care, and proposals to provide training funds for child care professionals, and to ensure criminal background checks for all child care workers. We also commend you for issuing proposed regulations to require that all federally funded child care providers require up-to-date immunizations as a condition of a child's participation.

As pediatricians have long stressed, early care and education programs for children (as well as child care for school-age children) should avoid harm, promote health, and include partnerships among child care providers, health professionals and parents to assure that children are safe and healthy.

To achieve these ends, we believe the following actions should be taken by the federal government, and, therefore, respectfully suggest that you include these proposals in your State-of-the-Union message.

1. Propose incentives for states to adopt appropriate health and safety standards for all child care settings. We believe that developmentally appropriate, safe, and healthy environments for children can be assured only if out-of-home child care settings, including those for school-age children, are subject to appropriate health and safety standards. Therefore, the Academy urges you to propose federal incentives for states to adopt the standards jointly published by the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association.[1] Published as *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of Home Child Care* (hereinafter, "Caring for Our Children"), these standards are in widespread use as the basis of training, technical assistance and reference for regulation revision. However, the extent that these standards are used can be enhanced by federal incentives. Such incentives should be designed to encourage states to adopt these comprehensive standards for all out-of-home child care settings, federally funded or otherwise. States should be encouraged, at a minimum, to require that all child care settings should be subject to the subset of the National Standards selected as those most essential to prevent death, disease, and disability, as set forth in *Stepping Stones to Using Caring for Our Children - Protecting Children from Harm* (hereinafter "Stepping Stones"), also sponsored by MCHB/HRSA.

Federal incentives should also be provided for child care providers to meet accreditation standards (e.g., those of the National Association for the Education of Young Children). Incentives might include giving more reimbursement to accredited programs than non-accredited ones, or providing families with higher dependent care tax credits for the use of accredited facilities. Such incentives could apply to both family- and center-based care. Accreditation serves as a means for parents to identify quality services so that each family does not have to acquire expertise in evaluating the quality of child care.
In addition, we recommend that the participation of health professionals as consultants to child care providers be encouraged by: providing tax incentives to child care programs

[1] Currently, the standards are undergoing the first of routinely scheduled reviews every three years to assure that they remain consistent with scientific evidence for measures required to avoid harm and promote health of children.

and/or for-profit health service organizations that provide health professionals as consultants to child care providers; providing liability protections to the health care consultants; and/or providing federal grants for compensating health professionals who serve in this role and for training programs that teach health professionals how to serve as consultants to child care programs. Child care providers -- including home-based providers -- need to have funding for access to health care professionals with appropriate expertise in order to ensure that child care settings are safe, healthy, and developmentally appropriate for children.

Finally, we believe that quality will be improved if states are required to ensure that their state child care plans, submitted for federal funding, are developed through a process that includes the participation of government agencies, private human services agencies, schools, employers, pediatricians and other health care providers, and caregivers. Coordination and cooperation among these different parties is essential to ensure that the health, safety, and child development needs of children are met by child care and education services provided in the state.

2. Propose strong federal incentives and federal financial resources for states to enforce child care standards and accreditation checks as a part of their regulatory processes. Federal Funds should also be provided to states to implement and enforce applicable regulations. Currently, many state agencies employ too few personnel to adequately monitor child care quality and/or employ personnel who lack the skills to make valid observations and assist non-compliant facilities and providers in improving their performance. States should be required to ensure that enforcement personnel are adequate in number and receive both pre-service and ongoing in-service training.

We are aware that Congress has rejected federal health and safety standards in the past. Yet, surveys of state programs demonstrate the current inadequacy of state child care standards and enforcement. We believe that recently acquired understanding of early brain development illustrates the importance of these early childhood care experiences and compels action to improve the status quo. Therefore, we believe that federal incentives to states to establish and enforce nationally recognized standards should be recommended and pursued by the Administration through legislation. Nevertheless, we also put forth the following as a more immediately achievable first step:

In the State-of-the-Union address, publicly challenge the Governors and state legislatures to implement "Stepping Stones" in their states immediately, and to commit to working toward achieving the "Caring for Our Children" standards. Immediately, and again after an appropriate interval to allow for change, the Secretary of Health and Human Services should undertake a comparison of all state laws and regulations with these standards. Federal assistance should be provided to arrange for objective assessments of the adequacy of the states' regulation and oversight of child care settings, with technical assistance to improve the process where necessary. The adequacy of each state's regulations, qualification of regulators, and enforcement process should be widely publicized.

3. Propose to promote licensing and professionalism of early child care and education professionals. We urge that you propose to provide federal resources and guidance to facilitate state licensing, certification or credentialing of all individuals who provide child care or who may be responsible for or alone with children in a facility.

One of the characteristics that correlates most closely with better quality child care is pre-service and ongoing in-service training of personnel involved in caregiving. Therefore, states should require and provide or finance training for child care providers. Such training should encompass more than how to handle medical emergencies; it should include instruction in basic child development and in managing stressful situations, such as temper tantrums and feeding problems, which are known to lead to abusive treatment of children.

Federal funds should be provided to assist states in training and certification of providers to meet the requirements defined in "Caring for Our Children." In addition, loans and scholarships can be provided for successful participation in the accreditation process, as you suggested during the White House Conference.

Also, we recommend that the Administration consider ways to assist child care professionals in obtaining health insurance and other basic benefits that will help to increase professionalism and reduce staff turnover, a serious obstacle to the provision of quality child care.

4. Make early childhood education and care available and affordable for all infants, toddlers and preschool children. As you did with respect to health care for children, we urge that you propose additional public funding to ensure that all children have access to safe, developmentally appropriate, and affordable early childhood education/care when they are not being cared for at home (and when they are being cared for by adults other than their parents in their own homes).

For many families, child care is a substantial financial strain. This is especially true for young families with limited financial resources. Your State-of-the-Union address is an opportunity to help the American public understand that child care for infant, toddler, and pre-school children is early *education*, that early educators/child care providers are skilled adults who deserve compensation as teachers, and that care and education should receive public financial support when it counts the most -- in the earliest years -- as well as after age five when all children have access to public schools. Dollars invested in quality child care will ensure that all children, even those from financially or environmentally "at-risk" homes, will have the opportunity to benefit from the nurturing, stimulation, and educational resources provided by quality early childhood educators and facilities, and that their families will benefit from the concomitant education and support.

We are not suggesting that early childhood care and education needs to be provided in public institutions. Rather, financing of safe, educational, and healthful child care should come from a combination of public and private subsidies or tax credits for the cost of quality, supervised, professionally supported care, in whatever setting it is provided, when the cost of care exceeds the reasonable ability of parents to pay for it themselves. Subsidies could be provided directly to families, or to states, localities, child care facilities and networks, schools, individual educators, and/or employers.

Parents of young children generally have less disposable income that at any other phase of their lives. As a nation, we do not ask parents to pay the full cost of education for their children after they reach kindergarten or first grade. Expecting parents to carry this burden for their younger, most vulnerable children results in bargain-hunting that buys inferior care for many infants, toddlers and preschoolers. In short, we must support the young families raising our next generation who cannot afford quality early care and education for their offspring.

5. Propose ways to support families in caring for their children at home. Many parents might cut back on working hours to spend more time with their children if they could afford to do so and if their employers provided such flexibility. Therefore, we suggest that you propose tax credits and/or other mechanisms as incentives to help employers support parents of young children so they can both afford and arrange to spend more time at home. Such mechanisms might include expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act, tax incentives and recognition programs for employers who adopt family-friendly workplace practices (e.g., flexible work hours, on-site child care, flexible use of leave to care for ill children who cannot attend child care, assistance to parents to find the most suitable child care from among their options, etc.) and measures to increase quality child care options in the communities where workers live.

In addition, we suggest that you propose other programs to support families, such as widely available, convenient and affordable parenting training and support groups, routine visitation from skilled parent support personnel (e.g., public health nurses) during the first year of a child's life, in the child's home and in any other child care arrangement the parents use regularly, and other resources to help families in this most-important role.

During the White House Conference you noted that 36 hours of training for early child care/education professionals was found to increase the quality of the care they provided; you wondered whether training for parents would yield similar benefits. We would wholeheartedly support programs to encourage and support parents' access to such training at each major developmental stage of their children's lives.

We recognize that the above proposals cannot be implemented without approval from Congress. In fact, it is important that the White House Conference be a beginning in the education of the public and government officials about the importance of child care and the crucial need to ensure that safety, health and developmental concerns are addressed in a manner that makes child care affordable to all families who need it.

Immediate Executive Actions

We also believe that there are a number of steps that the Administration should take right away and could be announced in your State-of-the-Union Address:

1. Monitor the effects of changes in welfare policy on the supply and quality of child care, and the resulting consequences for children and families.

2. Continue and expand the federal government's ongoing efforts to improve the availability and quality of child care through the activities of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Child Care Bureau, such as the "Healthy Child Care America Campaign" and the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care.

3. Redistribute "Stepping Stones" to all Governors and state and local child care agencies, and state legislative leaders, and publicly challenge the Governors and state legislatures to implement these standards in their states expeditiously.

4. Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to undertake a comparison of all state laws and regulations with "Stepping Stones" and "Caring for Our Children," as well as study the quality of regulation and enforcement systems in each state, and to publicize the adequacy of state health and safety regulation of child care in each state. In addition, provide incentives and technical assistance to support each state in bringing its own standards into line with "Caring for Our Children." To facilitate periodic assessments, states should be encouraged to code their regulations in accordance with the "Caring for Our Children" coding system.

5. Disseminate (and/or assist states in disseminating) information to parents on the extent to which their child care options meet child care standards and quality so that they can make wise choices about their child care options.

6. Direct executive agencies to assist states in ensuring the safety of child care facilities. For example, the Department of Housing and Urban Development should be directed to work with state building inspection agencies to assure that building safety standards for child care protect children from injury. Lead poisoning prevention and amelioration programs and other environmental hazard abatement programs could help to identify and repair the problems found in child care facilities where federally subsidized care is provided. The CDC could reinstate a section on child care health and safety which should support research on health and safety in child care, and promote the role of state health departments as inspectors and educators on health and safety in child care.

7. Seek to simplify the administrative burden to child care providers for participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, which provides valuable training on food safety and nutrition. Currently, child care providers need to file burdensome paperwork to assure each child is eligible. Many family-based child care providers are dropping out of this supplemental program because they are unable to manage the paperwork burden.

8. In requiring immunization as a condition of a child's participation in federally funded child care, measure compliance by submission of the child's immunization record at the time of approval for the federal subsidy. Also, consider requiring evidence of the child's having received all recommended routine preventive health services (pursuant to the "Bright Futures" standards), not just immunizations.

9. Develop additional incentives and technical assistance (including legislative proposals, if necessary) to encourage states and localities to ensure that healthy, safe, and developmentally appropriate child care is available for children before and after school, and during hours needed by families with non-traditional work schedules. After-school programs have a clear role in reducing juvenile crime, and promoting healthy behaviors, as well as protecting children from harm.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to working with the you to ensure that every child has access to high-quality child care.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Zanga, MD

Joseph R. Zanga, MD, FAAP
President

JRZ/jeg

National Association of
Children's Hospitals
and Related Institutions

LAWRENCE A. McANDREWS, FACHE
President & Chief Executive Officer

NACHRI

January 8, 1997

Mrs. Hillary R. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I hope you and your family enjoyed a joyous holiday season, and we look forward to working with you in the coming year. Already, it appears that it will be a busy year and, as always, we appreciate the leadership roles you and the President are taking on child care, children's health coverage and other key children's issues.

To start the year off on a promising note, I want to update you on the significant progress the children's hospital community has made in just one year in promoting early reading to parents and children.

When you launched the national Prescription for Reading effort in April, 1997, NACHRI and the nation's children's hospitals took an active role in the effort to increase early exposure to books and encourage a love of reading among our nation's children. Since then, NACHRI has stepped up its efforts to promote the establishment of early reading programs at children's hospitals, and we have delivered the message of the importance of early reading directly to parents. Specifically:

- NACHRI's summer 1997 edition of *Children's Hospitals Today* magazine carried an article promoting early reading programs to its readership of children's hospital CEOs, administrators, trustees, clinicians and community supporters (circulation – 5,000).

- A special NACHRI publication, "Healthy Children in Healthy Families," featured a nuts and bolts article on how to establish a Reach Out and Read program at a children's hospital. This publication was sent to community education directors, child advocacy directors and clinicians at children's hospitals nationwide.

401 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 684-1355 Fax (703) 684-1589

- NACHRI's consumer newsletter for parents, *Starting Out Healthy*, brought the message of the importance of early reading to more than 400,000 parents this summer.

These efforts, along with our ongoing work with Barry Zuckerman, M.D., and the Reach Out and Read staff, have generated dozens of inquiries from hospitals, physicians and parents, and resulted in a significant increase in the establishment of early reading programs at our member hospitals. Specifically:

- The number of children's hospitals with established Reach Out and Read programs has doubled since last year, bringing the total to 21.

- Forty-five additional children's hospitals have expressed interest in establishing an ROR program in the near future.

- In 1997, NACHRI hospitals in Baltimore, New York City and Kansas City, MO hosted ROR training conferences for physicians that were attended by 410 individuals from 50 health care organizations.

- In 1998, several Reach Out and Read training conferences will be conducted at NACHRI hospitals in New Haven, Birmingham, Atlanta, Cleveland and Salt Lake City.

I am pleased that Lisa Tate from my staff will be joining you and your staff on January 14 to discuss our progress and how we might move forward. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 703-684-1355 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Larry

Lawrence A. McAndrews

cc: Jennifer Klein ✓
Barbara Woolley

Enclosures

Ten/Nicole/Neera

HOGAN & HARTSON
L.L.P.

COLUMBIA SQUARE
555 THIRTEENTH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-1109
TEL (202) 637-5600
FAX (202) 637-5910

Writer's Direct Dial
(202) 637-5697

December 23, 1997

BY HAND DELIVERY

Elena Kagan, Deputy Assistant to the President
Domestic Policy Council
Executive Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20500

Re: Child Care: Market Rates, CACFP

Dear Ms. Kagan:

It was good to meet you at the meeting on child care matters on December 12. As promised I am enclosing materials about the market rate issue.

I want to take this opportunity to raise another matter of great importance to for-profit child care providers. Under current law, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is structured with an unfair bias against children who attend for-profit centers. I know that Joan Lombardi, at the Child Care Bureau, has raised this issue with you. I've included materials on this issue as well.

It was a privilege to meet you. I was impressed by your sincerity and commitment to doing whatever is possible to improve affordability and access to quality child care. I know that child care providers will work with the President on his initiatives on these matters, so long as no distinctions are made between for-profit and not-for-profit providers.

Please let me know if we can provide you with additional information.

Sincerely,

Nancy Granese

Nancy L. Granese
Governmental Affairs Advisor

NLG/lmf

Enclosures

cc: Lynn White, Executive Director, NCCA

Ask Joan

Child Care for the Working Poor
The Importance of Preserving Market-Based Rates

- **Market rates allow parents to go to licensed providers of their choice.**

1. Before the enactment of welfare reform, states were required to reimburse child care providers at market-based rates, subject to a ceiling. A similar provision still exists, but the repeal of the ceiling, in the guise of providing states the broadest possible latitude to manage their welfare responsiblities, has exacerbated an already difficult problem: the unrealistically low level of reimbursement for child care providers who provide services to low-income children.

2. The state defines the market -- whether it is community-, city-, county-, or statewide. Thus, the range of rates received by child care centers can range from 60% to 90% of the actual rate. This results in a wide variance of defined market rates but puts most parents who receive child care support within the range of child care rates in their locales.

3. Without the existence of market-based rate requirements for child care services, parents are restricted to the lowest cost -- and likely, lowest quality -- child care venues. In some states, parents may be priced out of the licensed child care market. The effect of repealing the requirements that states establish reimbursement schedules based on market rates is to drive parents into an underground child care market.

- **Some states permit parents to pay at least part of their child care costs. Others prohibit co-payment.**

1. In some states, parents may be required to pay the full difference between the amount of the subsidy and the actual cost of child care. In other states, parents are permitted to make a token payment which is unrelated to the actual cost of the care provided. Unfortunately, some states outlaw co-payments. This further restricts choice because many licensed providers cannot afford to provide care without receiving co-payments to make up the difference between the subsidy and the actual cost of care.

2. In most states, collecting the co-payment is the responsibility of the child care provider. Thus, if a parent does not make the co-payments, the child care provider is forced to accept less than its cost of doing business.

- **There is a strong correlation between cost and quality.**

1. Recent academic studies have demonstrated that child care improves as more money is invested in the programs, the facilities, and the staff. Professionally trained pre-school teachers are most frequently hired by child care centers; the facilities provided by such centers are both safer and more educational; and the programs offered are most comprehensive, and more targeted to the unique needs of pre-schoolers.

2. Children benefit greatly from the structured education programs which professional child care providers offer.

3. Child care centers are able to offer a wider variety of experiences and greater diversity of population than home care providers.

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) originally was established in order to provide food assistance for children who meet the requirements of Title XX of the Social Security Act: *i.e.*, they receive services paid for in whole or in part with federal funds under the Social Services Block Grant program.

The CACFP provides that public or private "organizations that receive compensation under Title XX of the Social Security Act for at least 25% of its enrolled children or 25% of its licensed capacity, whichever is less," can receive a subsidy for meals for those children.

Current law also provides that most family child care providers (regardless of the eligibility of individual children) and any tax-exempt organization (so long as at least one child receives Title XX services) qualifies for CACFP funding. The result is that these child care providers get the CACFP subsidy for every child, *even those who are ineligible for Title XX services.*

At the same time, *eligible children in for-profit child care centers are denied the food subsidy* unless the center meets the 25% standard described above. Thus, many children from wealthy families are subsidized, simply because they are in a nonprofit child care center. At the same time, many eligible children are not receiving a benefit which they richly deserve, because they are enrolled at a child care center which is run as a tax-paying enterprise.

The current system has the disadvantage of denying eligible children a food subsidy they should receive unless they are in family or nonprofit child care, and is an example of the way in which federal spending limits parental choice in child care.

Thus, the purpose of the CACFP is not achieved. Moreover, in a climate of limited federal dollars for social programs, many ineligible children receive a subsidy at the expense of needy kids, simply because of an outdated law.

Eligibility for the CACFP subsidy should be based solely on the child's needs, not on the tax status of the child care provider chosen by its parents. Any child who is eligible for a subsidy should receive the subsidy at any child care center. The law should be changed to make it explicit that eligible children should receive the food subsidy regardless of where they receive child care. For-profit and not for profit providers should be treated equally.

NATIONAL
BLACK
CHILD
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE, INC.

For Immediate Release
January 14, 1998

Contact: Carla Taylor (202) 387-1281

Statement of the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) on President Clinton's Child Care Proposal

President's Plan Supports African American Children and Families

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- President Clinton's $21.3 billion child care proposal, announced January 7, 1998, takes an important step toward a compelling goal - making high quality child care available and affordable to all families who need it. This goal is critical to the healthy development of children and the economic stability of families. Although America's economy is robust and its unemployment rate low, many African Americans have not shared in the benefits of the nation's good fortune. The unemployment rate for African Americans, at 9.9 percent, is more than double that of whites (3.9 percent). In addition, the per capita income of black Americans is only 60 percent of the per capita income of whites. Therefore, Clinton's child care plan, which promotes the economic stability of families through expanded child care subsidies and tax credits, is of great importance to the economic well-being of African American families.

Clinton's plan increases Child Care and Development Block Grant funds by $7.5 billion over 5 years to provide child care subsidies to more families. This is particularly helpful for low-income, working families trying to stay off of welfare in the face of high child care costs. Because African American workers average about 77 percent of the earnings of white workers,

1023 15th Street, N.W., Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 387-1281
Fax (202) 234-1738 • Web Site: www.nbcdi.org

and 26.4 percent of African American families live in poverty compared to 8.5 percent of white families, the impact of child care on the salaries of black families is greater. Too many parents have retreated from the labor force because they were unable to afford child care. Therefore, this component of the Clinton plan is key to the economic stability of low-income African American families who cannot afford unsubsidized care. However, while the proposal increases coverage by child care subsidies for children who need them from 1 out of 10 to 2 out of 10, the remaining 80 percent of children will not have their needs met.

A second feature that we strongly endorse is the Child and Dependent Tax Credit provision which would help African American parents in the middle income bracket maintain their ability to provide for their families. The plan expands the amount and eligibility for the credit for 3 million families. This is particulary significant for African American middle class families. Between 1967 and 1996, the number of African American families earning between $35,000 and $75,000 has increased by almost 10 percent, while the number of white families in that income range has decreased by nearly 2 percent.

The Clinton proposal also would help many of this nation's most disadvantaged African American children reach their fullest potentials by improving the quality of child care. Forty-two percent of African American children live in poverty, compared to 11 percent of white children. We know that poverty is a major barrier to high-quality education and future success. We also know that disadvantaged children thrive when given the benefit of high-quality child care. The Clinton plan directs $3.9 billion to quality improvements. Of that, $3 billion would go to an

Early Learning Fund for home visits, parent and consumer education, reducing child-staff ratios, assisting child care providers with meeting accreditation and licensing requirements, training providers and connecting them to centers for education and support. The proposal also directs $250 million over 5 years to provide scholarships and increased compensation and bonuses for child care professionals. Increased funding for career opportunities through training, scholarships, and compensation is particularly important for African American providers, many of whom lack training because career development opportunities are often not available to them. It has been documented that provider training is intimately related to the quality of child care. Child care professionals are helping to shape the minds of our youngest. As a nation, we cannot afford to stand for anything less than highly-trained, highly-compensated providers.

The National Black Child Development Institute applauds the President for supporting parenting and consumer education. We cannot truly improve the lives of this nation's most disadvantaged children unless we empower their parents to promote the healthy development of their children, both inside and outside of the home. Any successful parenting education program must include developmentally appropriate activities for children which enhance parenting skills. Too often, parents who want the best for their children, do not have adequate information and resources to translate this desire into a reality.

In our enthusiasm for the President's child care plan, we must not loose sight of the fact that it is, as yet, a proposal. African Americans, who have much at stake with this plan, must contact their members of Congress to bring it to fruition. Parents, local communities, businesses, schools and the child advocacy community must come together to work with Congress to develop comprehensive child care legislation. It is time for each and every one of us to take an active role in protecting our young.

###

The National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) exists to improve and protect the quality of life for African American children. For the past 27 years, NBCDI has focused on the areas of child care, child welfare, education and health. NBCDI has more than 40 nationwide affiliates that play a key role in our work on behalf of African American children and families.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE FOR WOMEN'S INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH

TO: JEN KLEIN

FAX: 6-2878

DATE: 1/23/98

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 8

FROM:

X **Audrey Tayse Haynes**, Director
__ **Sondra Seba**, Agency Representative
__ **Robin Leeds**, Agency Representative
__ **Tania Lopez**, Special Assistant to the Director
__ **Other** ____________

NOTES:

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE FOR WOMEN'S INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH
708 JACKSON PLACE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20503
PHONE: (202) 456-7300 FAX: (202) 456-7311

NATIONAL
BLACK
CHILD
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE, INC.

January 15, 1998

Ms. Audrey Tayse Haynes
Deputy Assistant to the President
Director, White House Women's Initiative
Outreach Office
708 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Haynes:

I am writing to express the interest of the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) in working with the Clinton Administration to pass comprehensive child care legislation. We applaud the President's child care proposal which supports the healthy development of African American children and the economic stability of African American families.

NBCDI and its more than 40 nationwide affiliates are dedicated to improving and protecting the quality of life of African American children and families. Our organization brings an important perspective to the discussion surrounding the development of child care policies. The future child care policies of this country that affect low-income Americans will have a disproportionate impact on African Americans, given the numbers of black families living in poverty. However, we are equally focused on proposals, such as tax credits, that affect middle-income Americans, given the growing African American middle class. Therefore, it is critical that African American perspectives are represented in the development of comprehensive child care legislation.

The Institute has a 27-year history of dedication to increasing the supply of high quality, affordable child care. This past Wednesday, January 14, we were the only African American organization to participate in a press conference on President Clinton's child care plan as part of a panel of national child care experts. The event was organized by the Communications Consortium and the Child Care Action Campaign. We have also provided analysis of child care legislation introduced in Congress and comments and recommendations on the proposed Child Care and Development Fund regulations of the Department of Health and Human Services. NBCDI also has launched the African American Early Childhood Resource Center to diversify the leadership pool of early childhood professionals. The Resource Center will become a catalyst for systems change by serving as a model for other under-represented groups within the leadership ranks

1023 15th Street, N.W., Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 387-1281
Fax (202) 234-1738 • Web Site: www.nbcdi.org

28th Annual Conference • October 10-13, 1998 • Hyatt Regency Chicago • Chicago, IL of the early childhood profession.

NBCDI and our nationwide affiliates would welcome the opportunity to continue our work in improving child care by working with the Clinton Administration. I have enclosed our statement on President Clinton's child care plan and its implications for African American families.

I look forward to speaking with you regarding this issue in the near future. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Evelyn K. Moore

enclosure

cc: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Ms. Joan Lombardi

NATIONAL
BLACK
CHILD
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE, INC.

For Immediate Release
January 14, 1998

Contact: Carla Taylor (202) 387-1281

Statement of the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) on President Clinton's Child Care Proposal

President's Plan Supports African American Children and Families

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- President Clinton's $21.3 billion child care proposal, announced January 7, 1998, takes an important step toward a compelling goal - making high quality child care available and affordable to all families who need it. This goal is critical to the healthy development of children and the economic stability of families. Although America's economy is robust and its unemployment rate low, many African Americans have not shared in the benefits of the nation's good fortune. The unemployment rate for African Americans, at 9.9 percent, is more than double that of whites (3.9 percent). In addition, the per capita income of black Americans is only 60 percent of the per capita income of whites. Therefore, Clinton's child care plan, which promotes the economic stability of families through expanded child care subsidies and tax credits, is of great importance to the economic well-being of African American families.

Clinton's plan increases Child Care and Development Block Grant funds by $7.5 billion over 5 years to provide child care subsidies to more families. This is particularly helpful for low-income, working families trying to stay off of welfare in the face of high child care costs. Because African American workers average about 77 percent of the earnings of white workers,

1023 15th Street, N.W., Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 387-1281
Fax (202) 234-1738 • Web Site: www.nbcdi.org

and 26.4 percent of African American families live in poverty compared to 8.5 percent of white families, the impact of child care on the salaries of black families is greater. Too many parents have retreated from the labor force because they were unable to afford child care. Therefore, this component of the Clinton plan is key to the economic stability of low-income African American families who cannot afford unsubsidized care. However, while the proposal increases coverage by child care subsidies for children who need them from 1 out of 10 to 2 out of 10, the remaining 80 percent of children will not have their needs met.

A second feature that we strongly endorse is the Child and Dependent Tax Credit provision which would help African American parents in the middle income bracket maintain their ability to provide for their families. The plan expands the amount and eligibility for the credit for 3 million families. This is particulary significant for African American middle class families. Between 1967 and 1996, the number of African American families earning between $35,000 and $75,000 has increased by almost 10 percent, while the number of white families in that income range has decreased by nearly 2 percent.

The Clinton proposal also would help many of this nation's most disadvantaged African American children reach their fullest potentials by improving the quality of child care. Forty-two percent of African American children live in poverty, compared to 11 percent of white children. We know that poverty is a major barrier to high-quality education and future success. We also know that disadvantaged children thrive when given the benefit of high-quality child care. The Clinton plan directs $3.9 billion to quality improvements. Of that, $3 billion would go to an

Early Learning Fund for home visits, parent and consumer education, reducing child-staff ratios, assisting child care providers with meeting accreditation and licensing requirements, training providers and connecting them to centers for education and support. The proposal also directs $250 million over 5 years to provide scholarships and increased compensation and bonuses for child care professionals. Increased funding for career opportunities through training, scholarships, and compensation is particularly important for African American providers, many of whom lack training because career development opportunities are often not available to them. It has been documented that provider training is intimately related to the quality of child care. Child care professionals are helping to shape the minds of our youngest. As a nation, we cannot afford to stand for anything less than highly-trained, highly-compensated providers.

The National Black Child Development Institute applauds the President for supporting parenting and consumer education. We cannot truly improve the lives of this nation's most disadvantaged children unless we empower their parents to promote the healthy development of their children, both inside and outside of the home. Any successful parenting education program must include developmentally appropriate activities for children which enhance parenting skills. Too often, parents who want the best for their children, do not have adequate information and resources to translate this desire into a reality.

In our enthusiasm for the President's child care plan, we must not loose sight of the fact that it is, as yet, a proposal. African Americans, who have much at stake with this plan, must contact their members of Congress to bring it to fruition. Parents, local communities, businesses, schools and the child advocacy community must come together to work with Congress to develop comprehensive child care legislation. It is time for each and every one of us to take an active role in protecting our young.

###

The National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) exists to improve and protect the quality of life for African American children. For the past 27 years, NBCDI has focused on the areas of child care, child welfare, education and health. NBCDI has more than 40 nationwide affiliates that play a key role in our work on behalf of African American children and families.

NATIONAL BLACK CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, INC.
1997-1998 PROGRAMS

Founded in 1970 the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) exists to improve and protect the well-being of African American children. To accomplish our mission, we are advancing a dynamic approach to serving the diversity of black children living in America. Our programs build on the many strengths of African American children and families, while responding to their particular needs. Through the affiliate network of forty-six volunteer chapters nationwide, NBCDI is providing its constituents with direct services, public education programs, leadership training, and research.

African American Early Childhood Leadership Resource Center
NBCDI 's **African American Early Childhood Leadership Resource Center** is a clearinghouse and networking hub designed to achieve systemic change in the quality of early care and education. The center will offer the following five programs aimed at leadership development for African Americans: *Program One: A Registry of African American Early Childhood Leaders; Program Two: The African American Early Childhood Leadership Mentoring Program; Program Three: African American Early Childhood National Leadership Network; Program Four: Leadership Diversity Institutes and Consultations and Program Five: A Database of Diversity Resources*

Annual Training Conference
On October 10-13 1998, NBCDI will hold its annual training conference for professionals and lay persons working and volunteering in child-related fields. Thousands of people from across the country will travel to Chicago to attend **Miles to Go, Promises to Keep in the New Millennium**. The four days of plenary sessions, workshops, exhibits, and special forums focusing on African American children and their families, will offer strategies for providing our children with the resources they will need to thrive in the new millennium.

Entering the College Zone
Sustained parental involvement in children's education is critical to learning. Particularly in the adolescent years, when a variety of social, emotional and physical influences converge, it is important for parents to stay focused and involved in helping their children prepare for college. Involvement at this crucial stage is key to children's future academic success. The National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) proposes to facilitate access to services needed by African American parents and their middle school children as they engage in this process. Through ***Entering the College Zone (ECZ)***, NBCDI initiates and nurtures a partnership between schools and parents, bringing together these two critical elements linked to the academic success of African American students. **ECZ** prepares students for college and support parents as they take an active role in furthering their children's education.

The Language of Love and Learning
NBCDI, in partnership with The Advertising Council, is developing a parent awareness and engagement campaign to increase the number of African American children who enter school ready to learn. Entitled **The Language of Love and Learning**, the campaign is designed to teach low-income African American parents easy techniques for nurturing the development of their children's language skills. Our message to parents is: *Talk and listen to your child faithfully and lovingly. Doing so will help prepare your child for school.*

"New"-Trition Public Education Campaign
Nutrition is a critical issue for African American Head Start children who in many cases suffer high rates of obesity, anemia, and other health problems associated with poor diet. In response, NBCDI is conducting a national health program for African American Head Start children and families entitled the **"New"-Trition Public Education Campaign**. NBCDI has developed nutrition education materials culturally relevant to African Americans. The materials include a storybook, posters, a card game, and a guide to assist Head Start staff with teaching parents and their young children healthful eating habits.

National Black Child Development Institute, Inc. ● 1023 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005 ● Phone: (202) 387-1281 ● Fax: (202) 234-1738 ● E-mail: moreinfo@nbcdi.org

Spirit of Excellence Parent Empowerment Curriculum

Every child and every parent possess the **spirit of excellence**, that remarkable life force motivating us to soar beyond the limits of mediocrity. Whether the ambition to excel presses forward or lies dormant often depends on one's circumstances. To help low-income African American parents and their children realize their desire to succeed, NBCDI has prepared the **Spirit of Excellence Parent Empowerment Curriculum.** Comprising four units--***African American Culture*, *Successful Parenting*, *Health and Wellness***, and ***My Vision for the Future***--the curriculum is an outgrowth of NBCDI's successful **Parent Empowerment Project** and is designed to be used by family counselors and facilitators. NBCDI is testing the curriculum in seven cities as part of a national field study. Afterwards, we will release the cu ulum for wide distribution to organizations and agencies interested in or currently conducting a parenting ct in their communities.

Public Policy

Promoting public policies that improve opportunities and outcomes for Africa erican children is central to NBCDI's mission. We are a leading voice in the national dialogues on welfare orm, child care, child welfare, and the television rating system.

Welfare Reform

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 transferred authority for welfare policies to the states. In response to this devolution, NBCDI is working to shape state welfare plans by producing and disseminating a public education video on welfare reform, *The Impact of Welfare Reform on a Fictional Family;* producing a user-friendly guidebook on the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act; mobilizing our affiliate network to testify at state hearings; and organizing a postcard campaign urging state lawmakers to legislate policies that protect children while moving families towards self-sufficiency.

Child Care

Child care is a growing issue for African American families who must work and, as a result, arrange care for their young children. Currently, the demand for quality, affordable child care exceeds the supply. Thus, NBCDI is pushing for universal child care by analyzing and comparing child care legislation, supporting child care bills that could help families respond to welfare reform, and conducting a public education campaign that addresses the need for quality care and education. NBCDI is currently researching the status of early care and education in New York City and Seattle to provide case studies. Our affiliates in those cities are assisting with the research and campaign.

Child Welfare

African American children are disproportionately represented in foster care. NBCDI and members of our affiliate network are taking steps to keep families intact as well as place African American children who are in foster care in loving, caring homes. Our actions include providing testimony for the hearing record on the Adoption Promotion Act of 1997 (H.R.867) and the Promotion of Adoption, Safety, and Support for Abused and Neglected Children (PASS) Act (S.1195). NBCDI supports the bills' provisions aimed at decreasing the amount of time children spend in foster care, but recommends strengthening the bills' family preservation and support measures. NBCDI's efforts also include working on amendments to federal adoption legislation and conducting a public education campaign in New York City and Seattle on the status of African American children in foster care. Our affiliates in those cities are assisting with the campaign.

TV Rating System

In January 1997, a voluntary television rating system developed by the television industry went into effect. The system, *TV Parental Guidelines*, was widely criticized as lacking sufficient information on programmatic content. A broad-based constituency, comprising child advocacy organizations, parent groups, members of Congress, and the White House, urged the TV industry to revise the system. As a result, a majority of TV networks agreed to supplement the system with content ratings. The revised system became effective October 1, 1997. NBCDI contributed to the public groundswell for ratings reform. Our actions included: meeting with the chairman and general counsel of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), submitting comments on the rating system to the FCC, organizing a letter-writing campaign targeted at the FCC and Congress, and giving media interviews and writing op-eds on the rating system.

from Audrey

GSG

Global Strategy Group, Inc.

611 Broadway, Suite 206
New York, NY 10012
Tel: 212.260.8813 Fax:212.260.9058

149 Natoma Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105
Tel: 415.495.4446 Fax: 415.495.4447

Memorandum

Re: Healthy Kids Survey Report
Date: April 6, 1998

I. Key Findings

- **The state of child care in America has slipped over the past decade.** Fully three-fourths of Americans (75%) agree that child care in the United States has become a bigger problem than it was ten years ago.

- **The quality of child care is a red flag issue.** The majority of all adults (83%) are concerned by the quality of child care that is currently available and 57% are "extremely" concerned indicating the intensity of their concern. The nation is also concerned by the availability and cost of child care (82% and 77% respectively).

- **Americans overwhelmingly believe that child care should provide a "safe and caring environment."** The clear majority thought it was "very important" for child care to provide a safe and caring environment for children (95% "very important"). Other attributes concerning child care were considered important as well including that it should teach values, provide recreation as well as proper nutrition and that it should educate and develop social skills.

- **Child care negatively impacts Americans' ability to bring home the bacon.** Nearly half the parents interviewed (43%) say that their ability to find reliable child care has either frequently or occasionally affected their jobs or businesses. Similarly, 48% of non-parents say they have observed that their friends', co-workers' and employees' ability to find child care has affected their jobs.

II. Child Care Concerns

The nations' children are considered to be one of the top issues facing the country today. Interestingly, 16% believe that the most important issue facing the nation today is our "childrens' well-being" when given a choice of this, crime, drugs, the economy, health care and other similar issues. In fact, children are second only to crime (21%) in this list. Groups that are more likely to think that children are the nation's most important issue include: those with children (26%), those who currently use child care (24%) and women (20%).

Quality is the child care issue that raises the highest level of concern. Respondents were asked about their concern about the availability, cost, and quality of child care for most Americans. All three were issues of concern for the majority of respondents. Quality raised the highest concern with 57% "extremely concerned" (83% overall). This was followed by 82% who said the availability of care is a concern of theirs (45% extremely, 37% somewhat). Cost, was of the least concern to citizens with just over three quarters (77%) saying they were worried by costs (45% extremely, 33% somewhat).

Women are significantly more worried than men by the quality, availability and cost of child care. Nine out of ten women, 90% said quality was a concern of theirs while 88% of women said availability and 84% said costs. Men were less concerned over these issues with 83% concerned about quality, 82% said availability was a concern and 77% were concerned about the cost of child care. The level of concern over these issues increased even more among respondents with children currently attending daycare (97% quality, 93% availability and 93% costs).

Regionally, there were slight differences in the level of concern over care. Interestingly, in the East availability is more of a concern than quality. This was the only area where quality was not the number one concern. Of all the regions, the South is the most concerned with quality (86%). The differences between regions are outlined in the table below:

		REGION			
	Total	**East**	**South**	**Mid-America**	**West**
Quality	**83%**	**82%**	**86%**	**84%**	**76%**
Availability	**81%**	**87%**	**81%**	**81%**	**76%**
Costs	**77%**	**80%**	**75%**	**79%**	**73%**

III. Selecting Child Care

The country is notably pessimistic about the state of child care. While over fifty percent (56%) say that their state regulates child care, three-quarters believe that child care has become a bigger problem in the United States over the past ten years. In the West 82% believe child care is a bigger problem now than it has been in the past. This is followed by 77% in the South, 75% in the Mid-America region and 71% in the East who believe child care has gotten worse.

Quality and standards are the most important aspect to take into consideration when selecting child care. Over three-quarters (77%) agree that this is more important than convenience and flexibility, cost, or even the facility.

All aspects of a child care facility are important to take into consideration. Each of the four characteristics we associated with child care were considered to be very important for parents to consider when choosing a child care facility. "It provides a safe and caring environment" received the highest intensity of importance with 95% saying it was "very important." This was followed in intensity by "it teaches values such as caring, honesty, respect and responsibility" (86% "very important"). Both of the attributes "it provides recreation and proper nutrition" and "it educates and develops social skills" were also deemed as important but with less intensity (each received 79% "very important"). All four regions agreed with the overall importance of each attribute.

		REGION			
	Total	East	South	Mid-America	West
A safe and caring environment	98%	99%	99%	96%	98%
Teaches values such as caring, honesty, respect and responsibility	97%	96%	100%	96%	97%
Provides recreation and proper nutrition	97%	96%	98%	96%	98%
Educates and develops social skills	96%	96%	99%	96%	94%

IV. Respondents and Their Children

Over two-thirds of those surveyed have children. Of parents, 51% say that they do not have children under the age of eighteen currently living at home and therefore do not currently need child care. Only 14% of the population say they currently have children in child care although one-quarter of those with children living at home say they use child care.

Nearly half of parents interviewed say that their ability, or lack there of, to find reliable child care has affected their jobs or businesses either frequently or occasionally (43%). Non-parents had similar responses with a total of 48% saying they have observed that their friends', co-workers' and employees' ability to find child care has affected their jobs and businesses.

It is obvious that child care is a major concern for adults across the nation. The strength of the survey responses indicate that there is room for significant improvement in the minds of adults. Child care has received a thumbs down from both parents and non-parents alike and it is time that it receives the attention and scrutiny that is necessary to ensure our "childrens' well being."

V. Methodology

Accurate survey research must be based on a sample truly representative of the target universe. The survey results reported in this document are of a nationwide sample of 600 randomly chosen male and female respondents at least eighteen years of age. The study was conducted by telephone between March 25 and 29, 1998.

The nationwide sample was drawn through a random digit dialing process. Respondents were screened based on age. The survey has an overall margin of error of ±4.0% at the 95% confidence level. That is, if the same survey was conducted among similar respondents, the results would fall within the range of ±4.0% in 19 out of 20 cases.

245144

naeyc

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for the EDUCATION of YOUNG CHILDREN

1509 16TH STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20036-1426 202-232-8777 800-424-2460 FAX 202-328-1846
naeyc@naeyc.org http://www.naeyc.org

Founded in 1926

December 3, 1997

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of the 101,000 members of the National Association for the Education of Young Children we want to thank you and Mrs. Clinton for hosting both the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning and the White House Conference on Child Care. Due to your leadership and your promise to announce a major child care initiative in the State of the Union address, the critical needs of young children and their families are being discussed across the country. We urge you to build on this momentum and announce a major commitment of resources toward the development of a more comprehensive, coordinated system of early care and education services.

As you know, early experiences are of critical importance to children's later learning and development, but many families do not have access to high-quality, affordable services. To fully support families and their children's development and learning, we need to ensure that communities have the necessary resources to greatly improve the quality of their early care and education programs and to make them much more accessible to families.

Reaching this goal requires active partnerships among the federal government, states, and local communities, as well as between the public and private sectors. Although we know that the roles of each of these sectors must be defined by those involved, we believe that a federal initiative can help build our nation's capacity to meet the needs of every child by providing substantial funds that encourage and support:

- a holistic approach to addressing the needs of children and families;
- responsive programs that provide children and families with cultural and linguistic continuity;
- incentives for raising standards and improving program quality;
- opportunities for early childhood staff to engage in professional development activities;
- mechanisms to link higher wages and compensation to higher education;
- subsidies and incentives that help low-income and working families pay for child care;
- options for families that address their needs and priorities; and
- active involvement of all stakeholders in all aspects of program planning and delivery.

As the nation's largest association of early childhood professionals, we are committed to working with you to make sure that all children are afforded the opportunity to achieve their full potential. We are eager to assist you in developing a national strategy for the establishment of a comprehensive early care and education system for our country. We are prepared to put the resources of our organization forward to assist you in this task. Please feel free to contact us to facilitate our involvement.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Clifford

Richard M. Clifford, NAEYC President

Marilyn M. Smith

Marilyn M. Smith, Executive Director

January 7, 1998

Mr. Richard M. Clifford
Ms. Marilyn M. Smith
National Association for the
Education of Young Children
1509 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-1426

Dear Marilyn and Richard:

Thank you for your warm letter. I appreciate your support for the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning and the White House Conference on Child Care. The National Association for the Education of Young Children is an important part of our national effort to help all our children develop their full potential, and I deeply appreciate your contribution to the success of this mission. I have shared your letter with Dr. Gerald Tirozzi at the Department of Education and Ms. Olivia Golden at the Department of Health and Human Services.

It is crucial that parents be able to find child care that is affordable, accessible, and safe. Each of us -- from businesses to religious leaders to policymakers and elected officials -- has an important stake in making sure that children of all ages have the best possible care available to them. We know that, from infancy through adolescence, in child care settings and after-school programs, children can learn and thrive with the right care, attention, and education.

As you know, my Administration announced initial steps to improve child care in America at the child care conference this past October. These include a scholarship program for child care providers and legislation to make it easier for states to get background information on child care workers. My fiscal 1999 budget request will reflect my commitment to this important issue and will include a child care proposal addressing some of the issues raised at the conference, particularly the availability, cost, and quality of child care.

Working with Congress, organizations like the NAEYC, and the corporate community, we can address the need for safe, affordable child care. I value your work and your commitment to improving the lives of America's children, and I look forward to continuing our efforts together.

You have my best wishes.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

BC/LIJ/RSM/RLM/efr-ckb (Corres. #3778569)
(1.clifford.rm)

cc: Gerald Tirozzi, DoED, w/copy of inc.
cc: Olivia golden, HHS, w/copy of inc.
cc: Jennifer Klein, WW, w/copy of inc.

from Audrey

Global Strategy Group, Inc.

611 Broadway, Suite 206
New York, NY 10012
Tel: 212.260.8813 Fax:212.260.9058

149 Natoma Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105
Tel: 415.495.4446 Fax: 415.495.4447

YMCA Healthy Kids Survey
600 Interviews With Adults Nationwide
Topline Data
The Margin of Error on this Survey is ±4.0%
The Interviews were Conducted Between March 25-29, 1998

Hello, I'm ____________ calling from GSG, a national research firm. We're talking with people all over the country today about important issues in your community, and would like to ask you a few questions on a confidential basis. This is not a sales call. We simply want to know your opinion on some issues of interest. To begin, may I please speak to the (ROTATE oldest/youngest) adult in the household who is eighteen years of age or older.

1. What do you consider to be the most important issue facing our nation today? READ/ROTATE

21%	crime
16%	children's well-being
11%	Drugs
8%	Economy generally
7%	Health care
5%	morals/family values
5%	taxes
4%	education
3%	jobs/ unemployment
3%	Environment/pollution/clean air/water/global warming
3%	Welfare
2%	politicians/ government
2%	President Clinton/ White House scandal
7%	other (SPECIFY)
5%	DK/NR

2. How concerned are you about the <u>availability</u> of child care for most Americans? Are you extremely concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned or not concerned at all about the <u>availability</u> of child care for most Americans?

45%	extremely concerned
37%	somewhat concerned
9%	not very concerned
7%	not at all concerned
2%	DK/NR

Total Concerned: 82%

Total Unconcerned: 16%

3. How concerned are you about the cost of child care for most Americans? Are you extremely concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned or not concerned at all about the cost of child care for most Americans?

45%	extremely concerned	**Total Concerned:**	**78%**
33%	somewhat concerned		
12%	not very concerned	**Total Unconcerned:**	**18%**
6%	not at all concerned		
4%	DK/NR		

4. How concerned are you about the quality of child care for most Americans? Are you extremely concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned or not concerned at all about the quality of child care for most Americans?

57%	extremely concerned	**Total Concerned:**	**83%**
26%	somewhat concerned		
8%	not very concerned	**Total Unconcerned:**	**13%**
5%	not at all concerned		
4%	DK/NR		

5. Do you have any children?

69% yes
31% no
* DK/NR

6. How many children under the age of eighteen do you currently have living at home with you?

51% none
16% one
21% two
10% three
3% four or more
* DK/NR

7. Are your children currently in child care? If they are not currently just say so.

14% yes
86% no
1% DK/NR

8a. IF CHILD CARE: How often has your ability to find reliable child care affected your job or business? Has it affected your job or business....READ/ROTATE

23% frequently
20% occasionally
25% rarely
31% never
* DK/NR

8b. From what you know, how often has your friends', co-workers' or employees' ability to find reliable child care affected their job or business? Has it affected their job or business....READ/ROTATE

30%	frequently
29%	occasionally
15%	rarely
13%	never
13%	DK/NR

9. Regardless of whether you have children in child care or not, which of the following aspects of child care should be most important to parents who are selecting child care? READ/ROTATE ALLOW ONE RESPONSE

77%	quality and standards
6%	convenience and flexibility
6%	cost
5%	the facility
2%	other (DO NOT READ)
4%	DK/NR

Now, I'm going to read you a list of attributes concerning child care. For each one, I'd like you to tell me whether you think it should be very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important for parents when choosing a child care facility.

10. it educates and develops social skills.

79%	very important	**Total Important**	**98%**
17%	somewhat important		
1%	not very important	**Total Unimportant:**	**2%**
1%	not at all important		
1%	DK/NR		

11. it is a safe and caring environment

95%	very important	**Total Important**	**98%**
3%	somewhat important		
1%	not very important	**Total Unimportant:**	**2%**
1%	not at all important		
1%	DK/NR		

12. it provides recreation and proper nutrition

79%	very important	**Total Important**	**97%**
18%	somewhat important		
1%	not very important	**Total Unimportant:**	**2%**
1%	not at all important		
2%	DK/NR		

13. it teaches values such as caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

86%	very important	**Total Important**	**97%**
11%	somewhat important		
1%	not very important	**Total Unimportant:**	**2%**
1%	not at all important		
1%	DK/NR		

14. Does your state regulate child care?

56% yes
11% no
34% DK/NR

15. Do you think that child care in the United States has become a bigger problem than 10 years ago, or has child care become less of a problem over the last 10 years?

75% bigger problem
10% smaller problem
7% stayed about the same (DO NOT READ)
7% DK/NR

16. For statistical purposes only, are you single and never married, married, widowed, or divorced?

25% Single
57% Married
7% Widowed
11% Divorced
* Don't know/Refused

A. CODE GENDER BY OBSERVATION

48% male
52% female

B. CODE REGION AREA FROM SAMPLE

25%	East	(ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NJ, NY, PA, DE, MD, DC)
25%	South	(VA, KY, TN, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA)
36%	Mid-America	(WV, IL, IN, OH, MI, WI, MN, ND, SD, IA, MO, AR, TX, OK, KS, NE, CO, NM)
14%	West	(AZ, CA, NV, UT, WY, MT, ID, OR, WA)

from Audrey

YMCA
We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

News Release

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE: **THURS. APR 23, 10 a.m. (CT)**

CHILD CARE -- NOT GOVT. SCANDALS -- IS MAJOR NATIONAL CONCERN
YMCA survey reveals nation worried about child care availability, cost and quality

CHICAGO, Apr. 23--Forget about the White House scandals. Eight times as many adults responding to a new survey are worried about the well-being of American children. And to parents and non-parents alike, that involves child care. Child care today has become "a greater problem" for Americans than it was 10 years ago, according to three-quarters (75%) of respondents to a poll commissioned by the YMCA of the USA. By large percentages, respondents said they were concerned about availability, cost and quality of child care programs.

As to what attributes are important to good child care, 98% agreed that selecting a safe and caring environment is "very" or "somewhat" important, while 98% said the same about programs that educate and develop social skills. A resounding 97% consider instruction in the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility to be "very" or "somewhat" important. Results were released at a news conference here this morning, as child care professionals convened in a major YMCA child care conference.

"When it comes right down to it, it's not political scandals, government or taxes that worry Americans. It's much closer to home. It's the safety and nurturing of our children and the values that they're learning," said Lynne Vaughan, national YMCA spokesperson. "To paraphrase and update a slogan much heard in the halls of government, 'It's our children, stupid!'"

The interrelated issues of crime (21%), children's well-being (16%) and drug abuse (11%) lead a long list of national concerns revealed in the YMCA Healthy Kids Public Opinion Survey.

- more -

YMCA of the USA
101 North Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606

A majority worry that quality child care -- which can protect, engage and nurture American children, and which addresses many of those top concerns -- may not be available for themselves and their friends and family, or may be too costly to fill the national demand. Only 69% of those questioned said they had children.

A resounding 82% said they were "extremely" or "somewhat" concerned about child care availability, 78% said the same about its cost, and 83% about its quality. Forty-three percent of respondents said that the ability to find reliable child care had affected their jobs or businesses, while 59% said it had affected the jobs or businesses of friends, co-workers or employees. Americans show less concern about the economy (8%), health care (7%), taxes (5%) and family values (5%) -- and still less about jobs (3%) and global warming (3%) -- while politicians and government (2%) and recent White House scandals (2%) bring up the bottom of the list.

The YMCA survey also showed that 45% of those questioned did not know whether their states regulate child care. All states regulate child care. The YMCA survey comprised 600 interviews with adults nationwide and was conducted March 25-29, 1998. Margin of error is ±4.0% Respondents were not told that the positive values discussed (caring, honesty, respect and responsibility) are the "core values" of YMCA programs.

YMCAs are collectively the nation's largest providers of child care, serving nearly half a million children every week. Nearly 8 million children are served annually by the YMCAs' broad range of programs, including child care, mentoring, youth leadership programs, and volunteerism.

\# # #

Collectively, the nation's more than 2,200 YMCAs are the largest not-for-profit group of related community service organizations in the United States. Ys across the country are at the heart of community life, serving nearly 15 million men, women and children with programs designed to foster the four core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Ys are for people of all faiths, races, ages and incomes. Financial assistance is available for Y programs and membership. To find the YMCA nearest you, call 1-888-333-YMCA (9622).

For further information, contact: Arnold Collins, 312/ 269-1151; **collins@ymcausa.org**
Francesca Sgambati, 312/269-0579; **sgambati@ymcausa.org**

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TELEPHONE: (202) 662-3547 **FAX:** (202) 662-3560

TO: Jennifer Klein

FIRM:

CITY/STATE:

FAX NUMBER: (202) 456-2878

FROM: HELEN BLANK, Director, Child Care Division, Department of Programs and Policy

DATE: 4/17/98 **TIME:** 5:15 p.m.

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT (INCLUDING COVER SHEET):

COMMENTS:

If you have any problems receiving this fax, please contact Kanya Williams at (202) 662-3544.

MEMORANDUM

DT: April 13, 1998
TO: Ron Haskins
FR: Nancy Ebb, Helen Blank, and Gina Adams
RE: Need for Child Care for Families Below 200% of Poverty

Thanks for taking the time to meet with us about child care. At the meeting, you expressed interest in state ability to serve potentially eligible families at low income levels—for example, those with incomes at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines. We went back through our surveys of state administrators. This was a useful exercise, and the results are quite disturbing. We found that:

The overwhelming majority of states limit services to families at or below 200% of federal poverty, and cannot serve those families well.

- **Nearly four out of five (38) states have income eligibility cutoffs that are at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines** for a family of three ($26,660). Many are significantly below that—for example, 11 have cutoffs below *150%* of poverty. Only two of these states are actually *at* 200% of poverty.

- **Of the 38 states with cutoffs at or below 200% of poverty, 31 were not confident that they could serve all families** meeting those income guidelines if families were told about their eligibility for child care assistance.

- **When states told us they could not serve all potentially eligible families at or below 200% of poverty, they really meant it.** Texas, for example, told us that the state is only serving 4-5% of all families eligible under its guidelines, which are currently at 150% of poverty. Mississippi estimates that it is only serving 5-8% of those eligible (families with incomes below 165% of poverty). Colorado reported it is only serving 15% of eligible families (eligibility cutoff at 185% of poverty) and estimates that the state would need three times as much money to even serve 45% of the eligible families.

- **A number of states with cutoffs at or below 200% of poverty have waiting lists.** For example: Alabama had a waiting list of almost 8,000 children (income cutoff 130% of poverty), Texas had 30,000 families waiting for help (income cutoff 150% of poverty), Virginia had 6,000 families on waiting lists (income cutoff 170% of poverty), and Massachusetts had 12,500 children on waiting lists (income cutoff 174% of poverty).

- **States reported that waiting lists underestimate need, as families become discouraged from applying and because many families may not know they can get child care subsidies.** Texas, for example, reported that they could not possibly conduct an outreach campaign to inform families about the availability of subsidies, when they are already unable to serve those families who know. Twenty-five of the 38 states were not sure that all eligible families knew they could get help paying for child care.

Two-thirds of these states anticipate difficulties serving eligible families as welfare 'ork requirements go up. The majority of states reported concern about being able to serve eligible families as the work requirements increase, with many indicating that they would have to reduce services to low-income working families not on welfare.

- **There are other signs that subsidy programs with low income eligibility cutoffs are fiscally stressed and cannot meet the real need.** For example, Arizona—which has one of the lowest income cutoffs at 135% of poverty—pays rates based on market prices in *1989*. This experience is quite common—of the states with cutoffs at or below 200% of poverty, 18 pay for child care at rates that are below the real market cost (using the 75th percentile of the current cost of care as market cost). At such low rates, many providers either refuse to accept subsidized children, or require parents to make up the difference between what the state pays and what the care really costs. Consequently, parents end up paying much more than their required parent fee—in Arizona, while a three-parent family at the poverty line ($13,330) is only supposed to pay 4% of their income in parent fees, this family would end up paying *14*% of their income if they wanted to purchase care at market cost.

The thirteen states (including the District of Columbia) with eligibility cutoffs above 200% of poverty also have a number of indicators of fiscal stress and inability to meet the need:

- **Many of these states have income cutoffs not far above 200% of poverty**—nearly half (5) set their cutoffs at or below 225% of federal poverty guidelines for a family of three.
- **Ten of the 13 have waiting lists or frozen intake**—including 200,000 families on the waiting list in California, 11,503 families in North Carolina, and 11,000 children in Pennsylvania. Connecticut has frozen intake for the past several years for all working families except teen parents and families coming off welfare.
- **It is highly likely that many eligible working families with incomes below 200% of poverty are not getting served in these 13 states** despite the fact they are eligible, given that most states prioritize services to families trying to get off welfare.
- **Only four of the 13 pay subsidy rates at the real market cost** (using the 75th percentile of the current market as the real market cost). Rates are extraordinarily outdated in some states. Connecticut, for example, pays at the 75th percentile of the 1991-1992 cost of care.
- **A number of these states charge steep copayments for families with very low incomes.** Twelve states out of the 13 require families at or below 150% of federal poverty level ($19,995 for a family of three) to pay a copayment—and some of these are high. For example, Nevada requires a family at this income level to pay 18% of their income in copayments for one child in care ($298 a month for a family of three), and North Dakota requires them to pay 12% of their income for one child in care ($207 a month). In North Dakota, the state's maximum subsidy rate for a four-year-old in a child care center is $350, so a family at 150% of poverty is expected to pay nearly two-thirds of the cost of care.

We hope this information is helpful. Let's keep talking.

Some Q&A's About State Need for Additional Child Care Investments

Question: Are states spending the federal child care money they have now?
Answer: YES

Fact: All of the child care funds have been obligated. HHS reports that 99.7% of the FY97 child care money has been obligated -- meaning that it has already been promised for specific purposes. States are now in the process of obligating FY1998 funds which are drawn down quarterly [Note: Under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), states have one year to obligate the funds, but can take two years to spend their CCDBG funds.]

Fact: About 90 percent has already been drawn down by states to reimburse themselves for program activities. HHS also reports that about 90% of the money has already been utilized, or drawn down, as of late winter 1998. Again, states have two years under the CCDBG to spend their funds.

Fact: Given that states were given very short notice about receiving this money, this is a remarkably high expenditure rate, and demonstrates the enormous need for child care funding. Remember that the legislation was passed in July 1996, the first funds were disbursed in October 1996, many states did not complete their legislative sessions to determine how to spend the money until sometimes as late as summer *1997*, and states have two years to spend their funds. The fact that all of the funds have been obligated, and 90 percent of the funds have been drawn down, as of winter 1998 demonstrates the extent to which states need these funds.

Fact: Many states and communities are concerned about serving low-income working families *not* on welfare given the inadequacy of funds to meet the needs of families on welfare as TANF work requirements rise. States and communities are very worried about serving the millions of low-income working families eligible under federal law (see more information on this issue below) because they know that the demand for child care assistance for families moving off welfare will rise sharply in coming years. In a January 1998 survey, the majority of states report that, unless they receive additional funds, they anticipate being unable to serve eligible families in coming years as welfare (TANF) work requirements increase.

Question: Didn't we take care of this with welfare reform?
Answer: NO

Fact: The funds in the 1996 welfare act were targeted to families on welfare. While the 1996 welfare act added funds for child care, the funds were designed to address the increased child care needs of families moving from welfare to work. As shown below, these funds did nothing to address the other major problems with child care.

Fact: The 1996 welfare act did not address the enormous unmet need for child care assistance for the millions of low-income working families who are *not* on welfare (those families making $6, $7, $8 per hour -- maybe $18,000 or $25,000 per year). Currently, we serve only about one of every ten children eligible for child care assistance who needs child care assistance, and as shown by a recent CDF study, not a single state in the U.S. is currently meeting the child care needs of all the families eligible for child care assistance under federal law. Across the country, many low-income working families are not even eligible for assistance due to low state cutoffs; those families who *are* eligible often do not get help because they are put on waiting lists, turned away, or are not notified of their eligibility; and those families who are fortunate enough to get child care help often face extremely high parent fees, or such low state payment rates that they are unable to find providers who will take care of their children. Furthermore, this problem is going to get worse -- not only did the majority of states report that they anticipate being unable to serve eligible families in coming years as welfare (TANF) work requirements increase, but many reported that low-income working families *not* on welfare who need child care assistance would lose out. [Please note, state-specific information on these issues is available from the Children's Defense Fund.]

Fact: The welfare act did not address the serious gaps in child care quality across the country. Research shows that the early years are critical times for children's brain development and school readiness. Yet studies have found that the quality of child care is often mediocre to poor, with a number of programs actually being harmful to children's development. And the people in whom we entrust the care of our children do not earn as much as bus drivers ($20,150) or garbage collectors ($18,100) -- or even bartenders ($14,450). On average, child care workers in centers earn only $12,058 per year (only slightly above minimum wage) and receive no benefits or paid leave.

Fact: The welfare act did not address the needs of the nearly five million school-age children who are left home alone each week after school. We must provide constructive after-school options for our school-age children. Without adult supervision, youths are at greater risk for alcohol and drug use, smoking, teen pregnancy, and violence -- 3:00-7:00 p.m. is prime time for children to get into trouble. Yet constructive after-school alternatives are scarce overall, and are particularly scarce in low-income neighborhoods -- for example, only about a third of public schools in low-income neighborhoods offer extended day programs.

Question: What about TANF funds, can't they take care of the problem?
Answer: NO

Fact: The TANF Block Grant was designed to meet a broad range of needs of families on welfare, while the Child Care and Development Block Grant was designed to address child care problems. States need TANF funds to address critical needs of low-income families. Low-income families on TANF face a broad range of serious employment barriers, including inadequate job skills and education, lack of transportation, disabilities, and family problems such as domestic violence. For example, between half and two-thirds of welfare recipients have not finished high school, families on welfare are more likely to have physical and mental disabilities, women on welfare suffer disproportionately from domestic violence, only six percent of families on welfare owned a vehicle in 1995 (and significant proportions of poor children live in rural areas, where there is frequently no public transportation at all). Each of these needs must be addressed if welfare reform efforts are to succeed, yet states are just beginning to grapple with how to help TANF families overcome these critical barriers. Any TANF funds that states have available are needed to help families succeed at work.

Fact: Significantly more TANF funds are going to be needed to help families leave TANF as work requirements rise. The demands for resources to help families get and stay off welfare are going to rise significantly in future years for a number of reasons.

1) Work requirements are still relatively low but will rise steeply in coming years, from 25 percent of the caseload working 20 hours a week in FY1997 to 50% of the caseload working 30 hours a week by FY2002.

2) Though caseloads have been dropping, many of the families who remain are those who are the most difficult to employ. These families will need more intensive help (and greater levels of investment) to successfully move into the workforce. When combined with the higher work requirements, states are going to need significant resources to successfully move these families into the workforce.

3) Some of the caseload drop is likely to be temporary, as studies show that only a portion of the families leaving welfare are doing so because they have found jobs. Some are inappropriately sanctioned. For example, anecdotal evidence from Tennessee, Wisconsin, and South Dakota suggests that families who appeal are likely to have their benefits reinstated.

4) While the caseload is declining, most of the departing families remain poor. TANF funds are needed to give these families the tools they need for work and family-based strategy to help them get out of poverty.

5) The current strong economy helps families find work and reduces caseloads. However, in the event of an economic downturn, caseloads will rise, more families will need financial assistance and help finding work, and more families will need child care assistance. At that point, states are likely to face shortfalls.

Fact: States are allowed to use up to 30% of their TANF block grant for child care -- and in a 1997 CDF report, about half of the states reported they had used or were planning to use TANF funds for child care. The TANF block grant allows states to transfer up to 30 percent of their TANF funds to the CCDBG for child care. A 1997 report found that about half of the states chose to (or plan to) use TANF funds for this purpose. While states can legally transfer up to 30 percent of their funds to the CCDBG, any funds that they spend on child care without transferring (in other words, any funds that are spent on child care directly from TANF) would subject families receiving these funds to the TANF time limits.

Fact: Funds for the Title XX Social Services Block Grant have been cut dramatically. Many states use these funds for child care and other important services including child welfare and elder care. States are using TANF dollars to make up for the deep cuts in Title XX.

For more information, contact Helen Blank at (202) 662-3547 at the Children's Defense Fund.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE FOR WOMEN'S INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH

TO: JEN KLEIN

FAX: 456-6244

DATE: 1/21

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 3

FROM:

X **Audrey Tayse Haynes**, Director
____ **Sondra Seba**, Agency Representative
____ **Robin Leeds**, Agency Representative
____ **Tania Lopez**, Special Assistant to the Director
____ **Other** __________

NOTES:

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE FOR WOMEN'S INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH
708 JACKSON PLACE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20503
PHONE: (202) 456-7300 FAX: (202) 456-7311

National Organization for Women, Inc.

1000 16th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington DC 20036-5705 (202) 331-0066 FAX (202) 785-8576

January 16, 1998

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Organization for Women and 250,000 members, we thank you for including the proposed daycare assistance to working families in your 1999 Fiscal Year budget. It is an important stride in the right direction.

We would, however, strongly recommend several modifications in your administration's proposal to achieve a fairer approach with regard to income groups. In making this recommendation, we are mindful that half of working families have incomes of less than $35,000 annually and that child care costs for minimum-wage workers -- many of whom are former welfare recipients who now must work outside the home -- amount to half or more of their annual income.

First and foremost among the desired changes is adoption and expansion of a refundable tax credit that would greatly benefit a large number of low income working families (reportedly, as high as 6.1 million). The kinds of changes that we recommend can be found in **H.R. 2778, the Family Dependent Care Affordability Act of 1997**, introduced by Rep. Cynthia McKinney, which would, among other things:

1) **Make available the credit through refund to individuals and couples without income tax liability**

These families fall into the lowest income brackets and are struggling to pay the high costs of child care. More so than any other income group these folks deserve the government's help in trying to meet expenses of raising a family.

2) **Increase the amount of expenses for which the credit is allowable to $3,600 for one child and $5,400 for two or more children**

Average child care cost for a pre-school age child was $4,100 per year, according to the Bureau of Census (1995).

We question whether a tax credit should be available to upper income families as there is no ceiling in current law or in the administration proposal on income eligibility. **A much more progressive policy would be to place a limit on eligibility as H.R. 2778 does at $50,000 for single and $80,000 for joint returns.** Revenues from taxpayers above that ceiling could contribute paying for other critically important child care program

http://www.now.org e-mail: now@now.org

improvements such as increasing the availability of high quality child care facilities, providing additional resources to those facilities, upgrading training and pay for workers, and developing more after-school programs.

The National Organization for Women stands ready to work diligently for passage of comprehensive child care legislation through our 500 chapters and network of dedicated activists. Thank you for taking leadership in the vitally important area.

Sincerely,

Patricia Ireland
President

cc: Jen
Nicole

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
1-19-98

Rob Reiner

Copied
COS
HRC

cc LHR

January 15, 1998

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Like so many others, I was thrilled at the announcement of your $21 billion dollar child care initiative. It shines a bright light on your ongoing commitment to early childhood development. And though I know the child care package will play an important part in your upcoming State of the Union address, I think it's important to frame it as part of that continued commitment to a healthy start for our youngest children.

The connection of child care to your education goals, which were so eloquently discussed in last year's State of the Union, would give things a sense of continuity and would reinforce the critical importance of giving our children the strong foundation from which to grow into productive members of society. You will have also planted the seeds for a new, enlightened way of attacking social ills.

Again, I'm sure you've considered all of this, but just in case, I'll put this little bug in your ear.

Sincerely,

Rob Reiner

Rob Reiner

P.S. We're so happy to be working with the First Lady on the launch of our child care campaign this spring.

Yale University

School of Nursing
100 Church Street South
P.O. Box 9740
New Haven, Connecticut 06536-0740

Campus address:
100 Church Street South
Telephone: 203
Fax: 203 785-6455

January 12, 1998

Ms. Jennifer Klein
Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
2nd floor, West Wing
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Ms. Klein,

Thank you very much for inviting me to participate in the President's announcement regarding his child care proposal on January 7, 1998. As the representative for the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners (NAPNAP), I applaud President Clinton's initiative to promote healthy and safe child care for all children in this country. You will be receiving a letter from the President of NAPNAP, Patty Franklin, as well.

As pediatric primary care professionals we recognize the critical necessity for quality child care, and the importance of a healthy and safe environment. Please keep us informed as we disseminate this information and encourage our members to support this initiative. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Angela A. Crowley

Angela A. Crowley, MA, APRN, CS, PNP
Associate Professor

NAPNAP
1101 Kings Highway North, #206
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

cc: Nicole
Jen

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
University of Arkansas
for Medical Sciences

UAMS MEDICAL CENTER

CARE

Center for Applied Research & Evaluation

Patrick H. Casey, MD
Director

James M. Robbins, PhD
Associate Director

Adolescent Research Program
Patrick D. Smith, PhD

Arkansas Reproductive Health Monitoring System
Russell S. Kirby, PhD MS

Biostatistics
Paula K. Roberson, PhD

Complex Brain Function Lab
Merle G. Paule, PhD

Health Services Research
Debra H. Fiser, MD
James M. Robbins, PhD
Juneal M. Smith, PhD MPH RD
John M. Tilford, PhD

Infant Health & Development
Patrick H. Casey, MD
Bettye M. Caldwell, PhD
Janine E. Watson, PhD

Parenting Research Program
Nicholas Long, PhD

Psychophysiology Lab
Roscoe A. Dykman, PhD
W. Brian McPherson, PhD
Donna M. Mooney, PhD
Joseph E.O. Newton, MD

January 11, 1998

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Hillary:

It was a thrill to be in the East Room last Wednesday and be present at the official launching of the President's Child Care Initiative. Thank you so much for seeing to it that I had an invitation. It was a stroke of luck that I was scheduled to be in Bethesda that day for a meeting of the Steering Committee of our big child care research project; otherwise, I'm not sure I would have been able to be present for the announcement. I had hoped to be able to talk briefly with you while I was in Washington but failed to try to make an appointment. I hope that one can be arranged some time later this spring.

I hope you left that room with the applause from those present still ringing in your ears. As a tribute to you and all you have done to help the cause of quality child care, they wanted to keep on applauding. It was truly a wonderful day. As one of the "old timers" in the room, all of whom have been working for at least a quarter of a century to gain greater public acceptance of the necessity for quality care, I felt a sense of peace sweep over me and said to myself, "The time has *finally* come." Thank you and the President for all you have done to get us this far.

But obviously a great deal of work lies ahead. Getting full congressional support for the plan will not be easy. Today's paper carried an item to the effect that the Republicans claim that they have a better plan which will cost less! If there is someone on your staff, or on the President's staff, who will be mapping out a strategy, please let me know how I can help. More than working on my research, and more than wanting to get more writing done, I want to help get this plan accepted and help it to achieve all that it can.

Finally, I want you to know that things in my personal life are going quite well. I cannot thank you enough for your concern and support at a difficult time.

With love,

Bettye

Bettye Caldwell, Professor
Department of Pediatrics

Arkansas Children's Hospital 800 Marshall Street, Little Rock, AR 72202-3591
Phone 501/320-3300 Fax 501/320-1552 Internet care@care.ach.uams.edu

THE SOUTHERN INSTITUTE
on Children and Families

1/19/98

Jennifer —

I would appreciate your sharing these outreach brochures to Hillary. I mentioned to her that I would send them. She was involved with the southern regional infant mortality effort and knows how a collaboration of southern states can produce results for kids —

Thanks — Sarah

620 Sims Avenue Columbia, South Carolina 29205 (803) 779-2607

THE SOUTHERN INSTITUTE
on Children and Families

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bruce Reed

FROM: Sarah Shuptrine

RE: Medicaid Enrollment Outreach for Children

DATE: January 19, 1998

Bruce, rumors are flying that the President is planning to talk about Medicaid outreach in the State of the Union. I mentioned to you at the White House announcement on child care that we were having a lot of success in getting the southern states to adapt the outreach brochures (which emphasize Medicaid for children). You will recall that we first developed the brochures in North Carolina through the use of 18 focus groups and then did nine more focus groups in Georgia.

Attached is the list of the 10 southern states now using our outreach brochures statewide. There are three more states (Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas) that have recently decided to use them and we are currently working with them on drafts. I think this southern states initiative on Medicaid outreach provides a great example of collaboration on outreach strategies. If you've interested in a one state example, I would highly recommend Georgia.

I think the fact that so many southern states are adapting the brochures for use in their outreach efforts provides solid evidence of their intent to get kids enrolled for Medicaid coverage. These states know they will have to expend more money on state Medicaid match for kids when they use these brochures, so they wouldn't be using them if they weren't serious about outreach.

Technical assistance has been a key to the willingness of states to adapt the brochures. Many states just don't know how to do it. Our Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant pays for technical assistance to allow us to work with each southern state to adapt the brochures to reflect the state's income eligibility level.

We have also developed outreach videos to use in coordination with the brochures. Jeanne Landrew has dubs of the videos if you want to see them. The videos are generic (no state eligibility information) and are also available in Spanish. The ***Have You Heard About Benefits for Working Families???*** is the brochure and video which is designed for general community outreach to get the message out about Medicaid for children in working families.

Please call if I you would like additional information.

Attachments

cc: Jennifer Kline
Jeanne Landrew

620 Sims Avenue
Columbia, South Carolina 29205
(803) 779-2607

STATUS OF INFORMATION OUTREACH BROCHURES DECEMBER 1, 1997

STATE	IN USE	IN DRAFT STAGE	DECISION PENDING	NOT PLANNING TO USE
Alabama			√	
Arkansas			√	
Delaware	√			
District of Columbia		√		
Florida	√			
Georgia	√			
Kentucky	√			
Louisiana			√	
Maryland	√			
Mississippi	√			
Missouri		√		
North Carolina	√			
Oklahoma			√	
South Carolina	√			
Tennessee	√			
Texas			√	
Virginia	√			
West Virginia			√	

Note: Most states produced all three outreach brochures for use statewide. South Carolina and Tennessee did not produce the "Facts for Employers" brochure.

Source: Southern Institute on Children and Families, 1997.

Facts For Employers

EMPLOYERS CONNECTING EMPLOYEES TO BENEFITS FOR LOW INCOME WORKING FAMILIES

Did you know you can help your low income workers make more money, get help with family health coverage and child care at no additional cost to you?

✔ Check out these benefits that can help you hire and retain workers.

Children do not have to be on welfare to be eligible for Medicaid coverage. Medicaid eligibility for children is based on family income, age of children and citizenship. Medicaid is available for children through age 18 in single and two parent families.

Parents who leave welfare for work may receive Medicaid for up to one year - children too! After one year, depending on the family's income, the children may still be eligible for Medicaid coverage.

Parents who leave welfare for work may receive help with child care expenses for at least one year. After one year, depending on the family's income and the availability of funding, the family may still qualify for assistance with child care expenses.

Low income working families can get more take home pay in their paycheck through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). A portion of the EITC money can be received monthly and the remainder when they file their federal tax return—regardless of whether or not they owe taxes.

Low income families may qualify for Food Stamps while working full time. For example, a family of three with income at one and a half times the minimum wage may qualify for assistance through the Food Stamp program.

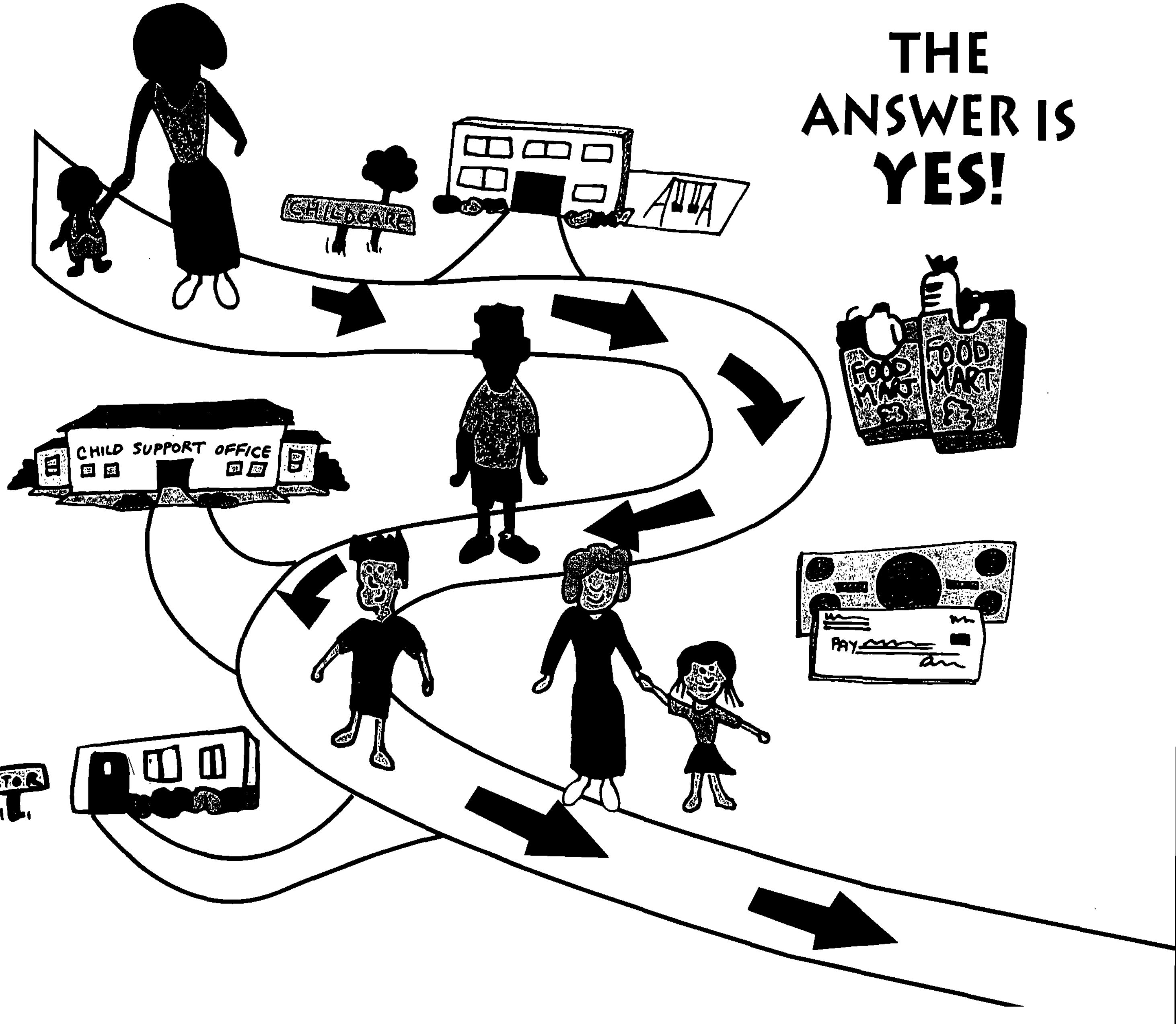
It's good business to be informed about benefits for low income working families.
Read on!

LEAVING WELFARE FOR WORK ISN'T AS SCARY

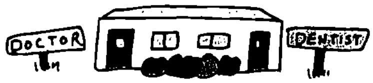
AS IT SEEMS

DID YOU KNOW YOU COULD WORK FULL TIME AND STILL RECEIVE SOME BENEFITS?

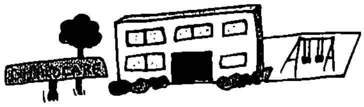
THE ANSWER IS YES!

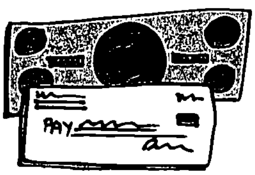


HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT BENEFITS FOR WORKING FAMILIES???



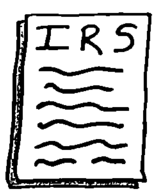
MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN


CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE



EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

FOOD STAMPS



FREE HELP WITH FILING TAX RETURN

ASSISTANCE WITH CHILD SUPPORT

<u>READ ON</u> TO LEARN ABOUT BENEFITS THAT CAN HELP LOW INCOME FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN!