

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN: NEW INITIATIVES

EDUCATION

"America Reads" -- A New Mission To Make Sure that Every Child Can Read Well by the End of the 3rd Grade. Today, 40% of 4th graders cannot read as well as they should. President Clinton's new initiative will:

- Offer "Parents as First Teachers Challenge Grants" to support effective and proven efforts that help parents help their children to learn to read.
- Help mobilize one million tutors to provide individual attention to more than three million young children before and after school; and
- Offer Major Expansion of Head Start to one million children in FY 2002.
 - President Clinton has increased Head Start funding 29% from 1993 to 1996.
 - FY 97 budget includes a new commitment to fund one million Head Start opportunities for preschool children by 2002.
 - \$1.2 billion increase in 1997 over 1993 levels.
 - Supports nearly 800,000 Head Start opportunities in 1997 -- 46,000 more than in 1995.

School Construction Initiative. President Clinton's new School Construction Initiative provides up to a 50% interest subsidy to school districts repairing existing K-12 schools or building new schools to replace old ones or to accommodate increased enrollments or new demands for 21st century schools. The President's plan provides \$5 billion in federal subsidies over the next four years. Given the range of subsidy rates, \$5 billion should support \$20 billion or more in school construction and renovation.

Charter Schools. The President is calling on all 50 states to enact charter school laws within 12 months. Twenty-five states currently have laws providing for the creation of charter schools -- public schools, created and managed by parents, teachers and administrators. They are held accountable for their results through a performance-based contract with a local school board, state, or other public institution.

Technology Literacy Challenge Fund. The President has proposed a \$2 billion Technology Literacy Challenge Fund to help communities and the private sector ensure that every student is equipped with the computer literacy skills needed for the 21st century.

Higher Standards for Students and Teachers. In his March 27, 1996 speech to the NGA Education Summit, President Clinton specifically called for higher standards for students and teachers. Students should have to pass a test in order to graduate from school to

school. States, schools and teachers unions need to work together to make it tougher for teachers to get licensed and recertified, easier and less costly to get teachers who can't teach out of the classroom, and clearly set rewards for teachers who perform well.

Expanding School-To-Work To 50 States. This will help states ensure that high school students not immediately going on to college successfully make the transition from school to work.

National Service. The President's balanced budget funds 30,000 AmeriCorps members in 1997 -- 6,000 more than this year -- for a total of 100,000 AmeriCorps opportunities over the program's first four years.

America's HOPE Scholarships. President Clinton has proposed scholarships to make access to two years of college universal by providing students with a \$1,500 refundable tax credit for full-time tuition in their first year of college and another \$1,500 credit in their second year if they work hard, stay off of drugs, and earn at least a B average in their first year.

\$10,000 Tuition Tax Deduction. The President's balanced budget contains a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 per year for the cost of college tuition and training. The deduction is available any year a family has education expenses. For joint filers, the deduction would be phased out at incomes between \$80,000 and \$100,000. More than 17 million students stand to benefit from this proposal.

Merit Scholarships. The President is calling for the creation of the largest-ever merit-based scholarship program, rewarding the top five percent of graduates in every high school -- over 125,000 students annually -- with \$1,000 grants toward the cost of college. The scholarships, rewarding excellence and achievement, will be awarded to the top five percent of graduating students in every secondary school in the United States.

Expanding Work Study. The President proposed a dramatic expansion of the College Work Study program, from 700,000 students to over one million over the next five years. This nearly 50% increase will significantly expand a program that reaffirms the American ethic, rewarding hard work and helping ensure that all who want a higher education are able to afford it.

Scholarship Increases (Pell Grants) for Lower-Income Students. The President's balanced budget plan increases Pell Grants each year. Indeed, the maximum Pell Grant award will increase by 33% from fiscal 1995 to fiscal 2000. The proposed fiscal 1997 increase in the maximum award would be the largest since the implementation of the program in the 1970s.

New GI Bill For America's Workers. President Clinton has proposed a fundamental reform of the federal job-training system that would provide a \$2,600 skill grant for

dislocated workers who need one, to return to school or get the training they need. The President's proposal would eliminate more than 70 separate job training programs and replace them with an integrated system that minimizes red tape and maximizes individual choice in each local community.

The President's proposal would also provide workers access, through networks of One-Stop-Career Centers already under construction in the States, to reliable computerized data on jobs, careers, what skills are in demand, and the success records of training institutions, so that workers can make good choices to improve their futures. States and localities would have flexibility to work in partnership with the private sector to tailor training programs and delivery systems to reflect local conditions and priorities.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Fighting Juvenile Crime. The President has proposed trying juveniles who commit violent or drug-related crimes as adults; reinstating gun-free school zones; a \$75 million grant program for juvenile drug and gun courts; and increasing the penalties for drug dealers who sell drugs to children or use them to sell drugs. (Anti-Violence and Youth Crime Control Act)

Domestic Violence and Firearms. Senator Frank Lautenberg and Representative Robert Torricelli have been pushing for legislation that would prohibit those convicted of any offense involving domestic violence -- misdemeanor or felony -- from owning or possessing a firearm. President Clinton is calling on Congress to disarm domestic violence offenders and pass legislation like the Lautenberg bill before the end of the session.

Keeping Children Safe in School and Off the Streets. President Clinton has encouraged schools to adopt school uniform policies, which promote discipline and respect. The Administration has developed a guide for schools to assist them in establishing these policies, which are being distributed to 16,000 schools nationwide. The President also supports efforts to prevent truancy, and the Department of Education has announced a \$10 million discretionary grant program to address the issue of truancy. In addition, the President has encouraged communities to look into how curfew programs can benefit local children.

Tougher Sentences for Armed Drug Dealers. Law enforcement needs every tool to prosecute these armed gangs. Unfortunately, a recent Supreme Court decision tied the arms of Federal prosecutors in their efforts to prosecute violent gangs. The Clinton Administration has responded to the Supreme Court's restrictive ruling by proposing the "Enhanced Prosecution and Punishment of Armed Dangerous Felons Act of 1996." This bill would legislatively overrule the Supreme Court's decision and return an important prosecutorial tool to law enforcement. President Clinton believes that drug traffickers and gang members who use firearms in criminal offenses should receive the toughest sentence

possible, and he is calling on Congress to move forward on this legislation.

Victims' Rights Constitutional Amendment. President Clinton has called for a constitutional amendment that will provide rights for the victims of crime. He is calling upon the bipartisan Congressional leadership, the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, and law enforcement to work with the Administration to provide constitutional rights for victims that will guarantee the right to have notice of, and not to be excluded from, public court proceedings; to be heard by the trial court on release of the accused, the sentence, and acceptance of any plea, if present at the proceedings; to have notice and to attend and be heard in relation to parole hearings; to be given notice of any release or escape from custody of the defendant; to restitution from the defendant; to reasonable measures to protect the victim from violence and intimidation by the defendant; and to notice of these rights.

ECONOMY

Children's Tax Credit. The President's balanced budget plan provides a tax credit of up to \$500 for every child under 13 to families with incomes up to \$75,000.

Raising the Minimum Wage. The President signed legislation increasing the minimum wage to \$4.75 an hour on October 1 and \$5.15 an hour on September 1, 1996 so that working Americans have the opportunity to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

Welfare-To-Work Challenge Fund. President Clinton's Welfare-To-Work (WTW) Challenge Fund is designed to result in the placement of one million harder-to-employ welfare recipients in jobs by the year 2000. If the goal is achieved, the Challenge Fund would ultimately provide \$3 billion, or \$3,000 per job, to States and localities.

Welfare-To-Work Tax Credit. Building off of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) -- signed into law by President Clinton on August 20, 1996 -- President Clinton has called for a Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit to help businesses create new jobs for the hardest-to-employ welfare recipients.

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Investment Initiative.

President Clinton proposes to more than double the current Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) Fund and provide a new tax credit to investors who are investing in these community banks. Over time, it is estimated that this investment will result in at least \$5 billion of new lending and investing in distressed urban and rural communities.

Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Round Two. The President has proposed creating a second round of Empowerment Zones (EZs)/Enterprise Communities (ECs).

The second round would designate 20 additional EZs (15 urban, 5 rural or Indian nation) and 80 ECs (50 urban, 30 rural or Indian nation). As in the first round, the President and Vice President would challenge low-income communities to develop comprehensive strategic plans for revitalization, with the input of a wide array of community partners. The government would invest in those communities that developed the most innovative plans and garnered significant local and private-sector commitments.

HEALTH CARE

Health Insurance Reform. The President fought for and signed the Kennedy-Kassebaum health insurance reform legislation that ensures that people can keep their health insurance coverage if they change or lose a job and prevents insurance companies from denying coverage to people with preexisting medical conditions. The President has also proposed that workers between jobs be given premium assistance for up to six months so that they can afford to keep their insurance coverage. This proposal would help approximately 3 million people, including 700,000 children, each year.

Protecting Children from Tobacco. President Clinton announced a new initiative to reduce tobacco use by children. Specifically, the comprehensive initiative is designed to stop sales of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco to children, prevent tobacco companies from appealing to children in their advertisements, and educate children about the dangers of tobacco.

Protecting Mothers and Newborn Babies. A growing number of insurance companies refuse to pay for more than 24 hours in the hospital, and some allow as few as eight hours. Premature discharge can lead to serious health consequences for both mothers and children. President Clinton has voiced his strong support for initiatives to allow all new mothers a minimum of 48 hours of care following most normal deliveries in his radio address on Mother's Day as well as in his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention. Legislation providing for a 48 hour stay (introduced by Senators Bradley, Frist and Kassebaum) passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support on September 5.

Opposing Limits on Doctor-Patient Communications. Some health plans require doctors to sign contracts that may inappropriately limit their ability to give patients information about referrals and alternative treatment. President Clinton has urged that Congress pass legislation like the "Patient Right to Know Act," (introduced by Congressmen Ganske and Markey) which would bar health plans from restricting doctor-patient communications. This legislation is supported by 45 health care organizations including the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Station, the National Council of Senior Citizens, and the Consumers Union.

Advisory Commission on Quality and Consumer Protection. The President has announced the establishment of an advisory commission that will study and, where

necessary, make recommendations on quality, consumer protection and the availability of treatment and services in a rapidly changing health care system.

Expanding Family and Medical Leave. This proposal builds on the Family and Medical Leave Act, which allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a family member without losing a job. The expansion would give workers 24 hours a year for the following specific purposes:

- **School Activities.** Participating in school activities directly related to the education advancement of your child, such as parent-teacher conferences or interviewing for a new school;
- **Routine Family Medical Purposes.** Accompanying your child to routine dental or medical appointments, such as annual checkups or vaccinations;
- **Older Relatives' Health Needs.** Accompanying an elderly relative to routine medical appointments or other professional services related to the care of the elderly relative, such as interviewing nursing homes or group homes.

New Employee-Choice Flex-Time. President Clinton's new proposal would offer American workers more choice and flexibility in finding ways both to earn the wages they need to support their families and still find the time they need to be with them. The President's proposal includes:

- **Employee Choice.** Allows employees to agree with their employers to work overtime in exchange for paid time-off -- flex-time -- with a limit of up to 80 hours. An hour of overtime could thus be used for 1-and-1/2 hours of overtime pay or 1-and-1/2 hours of flex-time.
- **Flex-Time For Any Purpose With 2 Weeks Notice.** Workers could use their earned flex-time for any reason -- as long as they give their employers 2 weeks notice.
- **Employees Can Always Choose Pay Over Flex-Time.** Workers would maintain the right to choose overtime pay, and even if they choose flex-time, they could still cash out any portion of their flex-time pay with two weeks notice.
- **Flex-Time for Family Leave.** Employees can use their accumulated family flex-time for family leave purposes at any time.

ENVIRONMENT

Accelerating Superfund Toxic Waste Cleanup in our Communities. President Clinton has announced an initiative to nearly double the pace of toxic waste cleanup. As part of the initiative, President Clinton is issuing an executive order to provide agencies that protect our lands and waters with new authority to make polluters clean up toxic waste sites they created. The President is also calling upon Congress to act before adjournment to reinstate the corporate levies that support the Superfund program, which lapsed during the budget impasse. This proposal was included in both the President's budget proposal and those of the Dole-Gingrich Congress.

Expanding Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative. President Clinton is expanding his brownfields initiative, which promotes local cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated and abandoned urban properties. The President's proposal includes expansion of EPA grants to communities for site assessment and redevelopment planning; support for revolving loans to finance brownfields cleanup efforts at the local level; and expansion of HUD Economic Development Initiative (EDI) grants to leverage private, State, and local funds in support of efforts to redevelop the cleaned-up sites and create jobs for the surrounding communities. The President is also calling upon Congress to enact his brownfields tax incentive proposal before adjournment.

Getting Tough on Criminal Polluters. Illegal dumping of toxics and other environmental crimes are real crimes, and our families are the victims. Prosecutors, police, and investigators need better tools to protect our communities from the toxic threat posed by environmental criminals. President Clinton is calling on Congress to enact a new Environmental Crimes Bill, which will strengthen community protection against environmental criminals. This bill will ensure that the assets of environmental criminals can be secured quickly, and can be used to restore the communities they victimize.

Expanding Americans' Right-to-Know About Toxic Pollution in Their Community. The President is directing Federal agencies to collect more data on key environmental health indicators and to compile that data into a user-friendly one-stop access point. President Clinton is also directing Federal agencies to work with parents, scientists, the business community, and Congress to provide better information to families, so that they will have the tools to protect themselves.

Making Water Safe and Clean for All Americans. President Clinton is challenging Congress to deliver the drinking water protection promised when Congress enacted his proposal in the recent Safe Drinking Water Act, by fully restoring his requested funds for drinking water. President Clinton is also challenging Congress to protect rural threats to drinking water, by fully funding his programs for collecting data about pesticide use and runoff and assistance for protecting rural drinking water.

ADOPTION

Adoption Tax Credit. The President strongly supported and recently signed an adoption tax credit as part of the minimum wage legislation. The legislation provides a \$5,000 nonrefundable tax credit to families who adopt and a \$6,000 credit for those who adopt children with special needs.

Easing Interracial Adoption. The President also strongly supported provisions of this legislation that bar placement agencies that receive Federal funds from denying or delaying adoptions based on race, color or national origin. This will end the longstanding historical bias against interracial adoption that has too often meant interminable delays for children waiting for permanent homes.

CHILDREN'S TELEVISION

V-Chip. The Clinton Administration worked to give parents greater control over what their children watch on television by requiring the installation of anti-violence screening chips (V-Chips) in all new televisions.

Agreements with Industry. The President announced an agreement with the media and entertainment industry to develop a television ratings system to enable parents to protect their children from violence and adult content. The Administration has also joined with the four major networks, the National Association of Broadcasters and advocates for educational television to support a new proposal to require broadcasters to air three hours of quality educational programming each week. The Federal Communications Commission soon afterward voted unanimously to approve that requirement.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

"Our first challenge is to cherish our children and to strengthen America's families. Family is the foundation of American life. If we have stronger families, we will have a stronger America."

President Bill Clinton
January 23, 1996

Strong families are vital to our children, our communities and our nation. President Clinton is meeting the challenge to strengthen our families by providing tax relief to working families, investing in our children's education, reducing crime and helping families move from welfare to work. The Clinton Administration is committed to protecting children, improving their quality of health, encouraging companies to adopt family-friendly practices and strengthening parents' capacity to nurture healthy families.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN PROTECTING AMERICA'S CHILDREN:

- **Strengthening Families:** The President also signed the Family and Medical Leave Act to enable workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for family members without fear of losing their jobs. President Clinton also provided tax relief for 15 million working families by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to allow more families to qualify for tax rebates.
- **Protecting Children from TV Violence:** President Clinton gave parents greater control over what their children watch on television by requiring the installation of anti-violence screening chips ("V-chips") in all new televisions. In addition, the President announced a breakthrough agreement with the media and entertainment industry to develop a television ratings system to enable parents to protect their children from violence and adult content.
- **Protecting our Children's Health:** President Clinton proposed targeted measures to cut off children's access to tobacco products and to reduce their appeal to children. The President also established a Childhood Immunization Initiative to ensure vaccinations and healthy futures for all children. In 1995, the immunization rate for children reached 75%, an historic high. In addition, President Clinton is committed to protecting Medicaid, which covers two-thirds of pregnant women and children.
- **Enforcing Child Support:** A record \$11 billion in child support was collected in 1995 through tougher enforcement, an almost 40% increase over 1992. President Clinton also issued an Executive Order to help track down federal workers who fail to pay child support.

- **Expanding Head Start:** President Clinton has made expanding and improving Head Start a priority of his Administration. With bipartisan support, the President appointed the Head Start Advisory Commission to examine and recommend improvements to the program. These recommendations formed the basis of the reauthorization of Head Start with major quality improvements in 1994. Since taking office, the President has increased funding for Head Start by almost \$800 million to serve tens of thousands of additional children.
- **Investing in Education:** Through Goals 2000, President Clinton supported the development of standards of excellence for students while encouraging grass-roots local reforms to improve our schools. In addition, the President gave schools greater flexibility to use federal aid and develop effective teaching innovations to help economically disadvantaged students achieve their full potential. The President also proposed a \$2 billion Technology Literacy Challenge Fund to help communities and the private sector ensure that every student is equipped with the computer literacy skills needed for the 21st century.
- **Opening the Door to College:** President Clinton reformed the student loan program, making college more affordable this year for more than 5 million students and saving taxpayers billions of dollars by cutting red tape and providing loans with flexible repayment options, including pay-as-you-earn plans. The President also enabled 45,000 volunteers to earn money for college by serving their communities and their country in the AmeriCorps program.
- **Making our Communities and Schools Safer:** President Clinton won passage of the toughest, smartest Crime Bill ever which puts 100,000 more police officers on the street. The President stood up to the gun lobby and won passage of the Brady Bill and, as a result, more than 60,000 fugitives, felons and other criminals have been blocked from buying handguns. President Clinton also enacted the Gun-Free Schools Act, which requires the immediate expulsion for one year of any student who brings a gun to school, to keep dangerous weapons out of our children's classrooms. In addition, the President provided funding for enhanced school security, drug prevention programs and counseling through the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act.
- **Helping Families Move From Welfare to Work:** Since 1993, the Clinton Administration has granted 61 waivers to 38 states to give states the freedom to reform the welfare system at the local level, including setting time limits on benefits, requiring recipients to work or stay in school, providing child care and giving employers incentives to hire welfare recipients.
- **Breaking the Cycle of Dependency:** The Clinton Administration took executive action in May 1996 to require teenage mothers to stay in school and sign personal responsibility contracts or lose their welfare benefits. Having a baby should not be the ticket to leaving home and dropping out of school.

- **Preventing Teen Pregnancy:** President Clinton worked with community, business and religious leaders to form the National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy which will marshal private resources across the country to reduce teen pregnancy rates.
- **Preserving Critical Programs:** The President has stood firm throughout the budget debate to protect funds for Medicare, Medicaid, education, the environment, adoption and foster care.
- **Increased Funding for Child Care:** Every budget submitted by President Clinton has included increases to improve and expand child care services.
- **Improved Coordination:** The Clinton Administration has worked to make child care programs more consistent and coordinated. By streamlining the management of four major child care programs into a single Child Care Bureau, the Administration has linked services and programs, reduced red tape, improved quality and given states more flexibility.
- **Promoted Quality:** The Clinton Administration has revamped and strengthened technical assistance to states, territories and tribes to ensure they have access to the best available information on child care quality issues, particularly health and safety. In addition, the Administration has launched a National Child Care Information Center for policymakers and the public and highlighted solutions for including children with disabilities in child care through technical assistance to states.
- **Launched New Partnerships for Quality Services:** The Clinton Administration launched the Healthy Child Care Campaign to create partnerships between the health care and child care communities to ensure safe and healthy environments for children.
- **Removing Barriers to Adoption:** The Clinton Administration is working to encourage adoption, including adoption of children with special needs, and to reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care. President Clinton strongly supports the adoption tax credit in the Adoption Promotion and Stability Act of 1996. The tax credit is a step towards meeting the challenge of removing barriers to adoption by making it easier for families for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive. In addition, the President enacted the Multiethnic Placement Act, which helps increase the number of adoptions by prohibiting discrimination based on race or ethnicity. The Clinton Administration has also provided every state with technical assistance to speed the adoption of children in foster care. During this Administration, there has been a 60% increase in the number of children with special needs adopted with federal assistance.
- **Improving Court Operations:** The Administration is working with 48 state court systems to improve operations so that children spend less time in foster care unnecessarily.

- **Focusing on Outcomes and Accountability:** The Administration is shifting the federal government's role from a focus on how well forms are filled out to a focus on how well children are doing. The Administration is providing states with flexibility and technical assistance so that they can reform their child welfare systems and working with 48 states to automate their child welfare systems and reduce the paperwork burden on caseworkers.
- **Increased Funding for Nutrition:** The President's FY97 budget requests about \$41 billion for nutrition assistance, up from \$39 billion allotted in FY96. In FY96, the President increased funding for nutrition to \$39 billion, up from \$38 billion in FY95.
- **Reaching Full Participation in WIC:** The Clinton Administration is committed to full participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), reaching 7.5 million participants by the end of FY97. This program works: Every dollar invested in WIC has been proven to save up to \$4.25 in preventive health-care costs.
- **Reforming the School Lunch Program:** This Administration's School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children is a comprehensive plan to ensure healthy school meals. USDA's Team Nutrition -- a network of public-private partnerships -- improves the health of children by promoting food choices for a healthy diet through schools, families, communities and the media. There are now more than 6,000 Team Nutrition Schools across the nation, building local coalitions to improve meals and providing nutrition information to children and their families.
- **Protecting the National Nutrition Safety Net in Welfare Reform:** The President believes it is possible to enact real welfare reform that is tough on work and responsibility -- not tough on children -- while protecting the national nutrition safety net.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

America is moving in the right direction. The crime rate is down, welfare rolls and food stamp participation are falling and the teen pregnancy rate has dropped. But we still have more work to do to ensure the health, safety and futures of our children and families. That is why President Clinton:

- Challenged Congress to pass meaningful health insurance reform that allows people to keep coverage when they change or lose their jobs and prevents insurance companies from denying coverage due to pre-existing conditions.
- Will continue to work to protect Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment.
- Is committed to providing families with a \$500 per child tax credit.
- Challenged the media and entertainment industry to create movies, CD's and television shows more suitable for children.

- Is committed to expanding the accessibility of child care information and services to parents, expanding child care funding available to low-income working families and to working with states to improve the quality of services.
- Will continue to champion programs that break down barriers to adoption through recruitment of adoptive and foster care parents; support the placement of special needs children; and reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care.
- Will work to ensure that children are protected in any legislative proposals affecting child safety.

May 1996

**PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES NEW
FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORKPLACE PROPOSALS:**

- ☐ **EXPANDED FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE**
- ☐ **EMPLOYEE-CHOICE FLEX-TIME**

NEW EXPANSION OF FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE: *President Clinton's new proposal would deepen and expand Family Leave by allowing a worker to take unpaid hours off -- with a maximum of 24 hours a year -- for child education, older relatives' health needs, and routine family medical purposes.*

Current Family and Medical Leave Law. The FMLA helps families only with a medical crisis or special limited care-giving needs, such as a birth or adoption. But working families often have to care for children or parents in circumstances for which they cannot use Family and Medical Leave.

New Family And Medical Leave Procedures. FMLA expansion would be limited to 24 hours a year for the following specific purposes:

- **SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.** Participating in school activities directly related to the educational advancement of your child, such as parent-teacher conferences or interviewing for a new school;
- **ROUTINE FAMILY MEDICAL PURPOSES.** Accompanying your child to routine dental or medical appointments, such as annual checkups or vaccinations;
- **OLDER RELATIVES' HEALTH NEEDS.** Accompanying an elderly relative to routine medical appointments or other professional services related to the care of the elderly relative, such as interviewing nursing homes or group homes.

NEW EMPLOYEE-CHOICE FLEX-TIME: *President Clinton's new proposal would offer American workers more choice and flexibility in finding ways both to earn the wages they need to support their families and still find the time they need to be with them. The President's proposal would:*

- **EMPLOYEE CHOICE.** Allows employees to agree with their employers to work overtime in exchange for paid time-off -- flex-time -- with a limit of up to 80 hours. An hour of overtime could thus be used for 1-and-1/2-hours of overtime pay or 1-and-1/2 hours of flex-time.
- **FLEX-TIME FOR ANY PURPOSE WITH 2 WEEKS NOTICE.** Workers could use their earned flex-time for any reason -- as long as they give their employers 2 weeks notice.
- **EMPLOYEES CAN ALWAYS CHOOSE PAY OVER FLEX-TIME.** Workers would maintain the right to choose overtime pay, and even if they choose flex-time, they could still cash out any portion of their flex-time pay with two weeks notice.
- **FLEX-TIME FOR FAMILY LEAVE.** Employees can use their accumulated family flex-time for family leave purposes at any time.

OPPOSE ATTEMPTS TO REDUCE WORKER CHOICE: *In announcing these new family-workplace proposals, President Clinton made clear that he would oppose any bill that allows for coercion and uses phrases like "comp-time" as a cover for giving workers less choice in the workplace.*

PRESIDENT CLINTON: FIGHTING FOR EXPANDED OPPORTUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION

PREPARE EVERY CHILD TO LEARN AND EQUIP THEM WITH THE SKILLS NEEDED FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.

- **President Clinton's Balanced Budget provides \$57 billion more for Education and Training than the current Republican Budget Resolution.**
- **"America Reads" -- A New American Mission To Make Sure that Every Child Can Read Well by the End of the 3rd Grade.** Today, 40% of 4th graders cannot read as well as they should. President Clinton's new initiative will:
 - (1) Offer "Parents as First Teachers Challenge Grants" to support effective and proven efforts that help parents help their children to learn to read;
 - (2) Help Mobilize 1 million tutors to provide individual attention to more than 3 million young children before and after school; and
 - (3) Major Expansion of Head Start to 1 million children in FY2002.
 - President Clinton has increased Head Start funding 29% from 1993 to 1996.
 - FY97 budget includes a new commitment to fund 1 million Head Start opportunities for preschool children by 2002.
 - \$1.2 billion increase in 1997 over 1993 levels.
 - Supports nearly 800,000 Head Start opportunities in 1997 -- 46,000 more than in 1995.

*President Clinton's new initiative is founded on the notion that parents must be the bedrock of any child literacy effort. This new "America Reads" initiative builds on Clinton Administration efforts to work with the Private Sector in helping parents help our children learn how to read, such as the "Partnership for Family Involvement in Education" and Read*Write*Now.*

- **Technological Literacy for the 21st Century:** On February 15, 1996, President Clinton proposed the creation of a \$2 billion, 5-year Technology Literacy Challenge -- the federal government will match state and local dollars to spur efforts to get connections to the Information Superhighway, computers, well-trained teachers and challenging educational software into every classroom in every locality.
- **School Construction Initiative.** President Clinton's new School Construction Initiative provides up to a 50% interest subsidy to school districts repairing existing K-12 schools or building new schools to replace old ones or to accommodate increased enrollments or new demands for 21st century schools. The President's plan provides \$5 billion in federal subsidies over the next four years. Given the range of subsidy rates, \$5 billion should support \$20 billion or more in school construction and renovation.
- **Higher Standards for Students & Teachers:** In his March 27, 1996 speech to the NGA Education Summit President Clinton specifically called for higher tough and meaningful standards for students and teachers. Students should have to pass a test in order to graduate from school to school. States, schools, and teachers unions need to work together to make it tougher for teachers to get licensed and recertified, easier and less costly to get teachers who can't teach out of the classroom, and clearly set rewards for teachers who perform well.

- **Public School Choice and Charter Schools:** Parents who are dissatisfied with their child's performance or the school's performance should have the opportunity to choose a public school that will do better. To ensure that parents have the opportunity to choose a school for their children, the President has called on all 50 states to enact charter school laws -- public schools, created and managed by parents, teachers and administrators. 21 states currently have laws providing for the creation of charter schools. Charter schools have greater flexibility, but are held accountable for their results through a performance-based contract with a local school board, state or other public institution.

OPEN WIDE THE DOORS OF COLLEGE AND PROVIDE TRAINING TO EVERY SINGLE AMERICAN WHO WANTS IT.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PLAN: MAKE AT LEAST 2 YEARS OF COLLEGE AS UNIVERSAL AS HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION IS TODAY AND USE TARGETED TAX CUTS TO DO IT.

- **America's \$1,500 HOPE Scholarships.** On June 4, President Clinton proposed America's HOPE Scholarships to make access to two years of college universal by providing students with a \$1,500 refundable tax credit for full-time tuition in their first year of college and another \$1,500 credit in their second year if they stay off drugs and earn at least a B average in their first year. Part-time students are eligible for a \$750 tax credit. The \$1,500 tuition tax credit will pay for more than the full cost of tuition at the national average-priced community colleges.
- **\$10,000 Tuition Tax Deduction:** President Clinton's balanced budget contains a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 per year for the cost of college tuition and training throughout one's life. The \$10,000 tuition tax deduction is available any year a family has education expenses. For joint filers, the deduction would be phased out at incomes between \$80,000 and \$100,000.
- **Major Pell Grant Expansion.** The Pell Grant is the main federal grant that allows millions of low-income and middle-class families to have access to college. The President's balanced budget builds in a 33% increase in the maximum Pell Grant award from FY1995 to FY2002. In FY97 alone, the President's budget would provide Pell Grants for 3.7 million students.
- **Strong Commitment to National Service:** President Clinton's balanced budget funds 30,000 AmeriCorps members in 1997 -- 6,000 more than this year -- for a total of 100,000 AmeriCorps opportunities over the program's first 4 years.
- **National Service High School Scholarships:** President Clinton called on all high schools to make service part of their basic ethic and to raise \$500 to reward a high school student who has done significant work to help his or her community. The federal government would match the \$500 to help the student go to college.
- **College Honor Scholarships:** In his State of the Union Address President Clinton called for the creation of the largest-ever merit-based scholarship program, rewarding the top 5% of high school graduates in every school with \$1,000 grants toward the cost of college. If this proposal were enacted this year, 128,500 graduating high school seniors would receive a scholarship to help finance their college education.

- **Expand and Transform Work Study:** President Clinton's balanced budget increases the number of students involved in work study from 700,000 to over 1 million students over the next five years.
- **Expand School-To-Work To 50 States.** Help states ensure that high school students not immediately going on to college successfully make the transition from school to work.
- **New GI Bill For America's Workers.** President Clinton has proposed a fundamental reform of the federal job-training system that would provide a \$2,600 skill grant for dislocated workers who need one, to return to school or get the training they need. The President's proposal would eliminate more than 70 separate job training programs and replace them with an integrated system that minimizes red tape and maximizes individual choice in each local community.
- The President's proposal would also provide workers access, through networks of One-Stop-Career Centers already under construction in the States, to reliable computerized data on jobs, careers, what skills are in demand, and the success records of training institutions, so that workers can make good choices to improve their futures. States and localities would have flexibility to work in partnership with the private sector to tailor training programs and delivery systems to reflect local conditions and priorities.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE: MEETING AMERICA'S CHALLENGES IN AN AGE OF POSSIBILITY
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"Now it is time for us to look also to the challenges of today and tomorrow, beyond the burdens of yesterday. The challenges are significant. But America was built on challenges, not promises....I am confident: When Americans work together in their homes, their schools, their churches, their synagogues, their civic groups, their workplace, they can meet any challenge."

-- President Clinton, State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

First Challenge: To Cherish Our Children and Strengthen America's Families.

Cherishing our Children

- Announced a breakthrough agreement with the media and entertainment industry to develop a **television ratings system** to enable parents to protect their children from violence and adult content.
- Gave parents greater control over what their children watch on television by requiring the installation of anti-violence screening chips ("**V-chips**") in all new television sets.
- Joined together with the four major television networks to support a proposal to require broadcasters to air **three hours of quality educational programming** each week.
- Proposed targeted measures to cut off **children's access to tobacco products** and to reduce their **appeal to children**.
- Established a Childhood Immunization Initiative to ensure **vaccinations and healthy futures for all children**. In 1995, the immunization rate for two-year old children reached 75%, an historic high.

Strengthening our Families

- Enabled **workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave** to care for a family member without fear of losing their jobs by enacting the Family and Medical Leave Act -- more than 12 million people have taken leave since its enactment.
- Proposed expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act to better help workers care for their families without sacrificing their work obligations. The expansion will **allow workers to take up to 24 hours of unpaid leave** in support of their children's educational needs, older relatives' health care and other family medical and dental obligations.
- Proposed an employee choice **flex-time initiative** that will allow workers to agree with their employers to work overtime in exchange for up to 80 hours of paid time-off ("flex-time"). Under the President's proposal, workers could choose to receive time-and-a-half in flex-time or in cash pay for each hour of overtime and could use their accumulated flex-time for any purpose.
- Provided **tax relief for 15 million working families** by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Ended welfare as we know it by transforming a broken welfare system that trapped too many people in a cycle of dependence to one that emphasizes work, independence and responsibility. (Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act)
- Even before signing welfare reform, the President helped move **1.3 million people** from welfare to work -- cutting welfare rolls by 10% since taking office.

- **Allowed 43 states to reform welfare** on their own by setting time limits on benefits, require recipients to work or stay in school, provide child care and give employers incentives to hire welfare recipients. These waivers are making work and responsibility a way of life for **75% of all welfare recipients**.

Ensuring Responsibility

- Collected a **record \$11 billion in child support** in 1995 through tougher enforcement, almost a 40% increase over 1992.
- Enacted the most sweeping crackdown on non-child support paying parents in history including establishing a national new hire reporting system to **track delinquent parents across state lines**, streamlining the paternity establishment process, providing for uniform interstate child support laws and **enhancing non-payment penalties**.
- Issued an Executive Order to help track down **federal workers who fail to pay child support**.
- Worked with community, business and religious leaders to form a **national campaign to reduce teen pregnancy**.

Second Challenge: To Provide Educational Opportunities for the New Century.

Making the Necessary Investments in Education

- Increased **Head Start funding by almost \$800 million** to provide early education to tens of thousands of additional children in need.
- Supported the development of **voluntary standards of excellence** for students while encouraging grassroots reforms to improve our schools. (Goals 2000: Educate America Act)
- Encouraged schools, colleges and employers to join in creating **school-to-work opportunities**, providing students with work-based learning and giving them new pathways from high school to good jobs and post-secondary education. (School-to-Work Opportunities Act)
- Gave schools **greater flexibility to use federal aid** and develop **effective teaching innovations** to help all students achieve their full potential. (Improving America's Schools Act)

Preparing Our Schools for the 21st Century

- Proposed a **\$2 billion Technology Literacy Challenge Fund** to help communities and the private sector ensure that every student is equipped with the computer literacy skills needed for the 21st century.
- Launched an **Educational Technology Initiative** to connect every classroom to the Information Superhighway and provide all students with access to computers by the dawn of the next century.
- Challenged each state to give **parents the right to choose the public school** their children will attend and to allow parents, teachers and administrators to form new charter schools.
- Proposed \$5 billion to help local communities and states rebuild our nation's schools.

Opening the Door to College

- Reformed the **student loan program**, making college more affordable this year for millions of students in the Direct Lending program and others who will have access to flexible repayment options, including pay-as-you-earn plans. (Student Loan Reform Act)

- Enabled **45,000 volunteers to earn money for college** by serving their communities and their country in the **AmeriCorps** program. (National Service Act)
- Proposed **America's Hope Scholarships** to make access to two-years of college universal by providing students with a \$1,500 refundable tax credit for full-time tuition in their first year of college and another \$1,500 credit in their second year if they work hard, stay off drugs and earn at least a B average in their first year.
- Increased the Pell Grant from \$2,300 to \$2,470 and proposed an increase to \$2,700 in 1997 during which the program will provide grants to 3.8 million students.
- Challenged Congress to make **\$10,000 of college tuition tax-deductible each year**; expand **work-study** to help 1 million young Americans work their way through college by the year 2000; provide **\$1,000 merit scholarships** for the top 5% of graduates in every high school; and increase the number of **Pell Grants** for students who need help.

Third Challenge: To Help Every American Achieve Security in the New Economy.

Strengthening America's Economy

- Submitted to Congress the **first genuine balanced budget in 17 years** -- balancing the budget in seven years based on both Administration and Congressional Budget Office estimates while protecting our fundamental priorities of Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment.
- Won enactment of the **largest deficit-cutting plan in history** -- cutting the deficit by **more than half** within four years, after it quadrupled during the previous two Administrations.
- First President to cut the deficit for four years in a row **since the 1840's**.
- Oversaw the creation of **10.2 million new jobs in three and-a-half years** -- a faster annual rate of job growth than any Republican Administration since the 1920's.
- **Unemployment rate has fallen to 5.4%** -- down from over 7% when President Clinton took office.
- **93% of all new jobs created are in the private sector** -- higher than the average percentage during any Administration since the Truman Administration.
- Over two-thirds of the new jobs have been in **high-wage** job categories.
- **Over one million new manufacturing, automotive and construction jobs** have been added since January 1993.
- Highest annual number of **new business incorporations** since World War II.
- Real median **family income has increased** during the Clinton Administration -- after falling 4% during the previous four years.
- **Real hourly wages** have risen for the first time in a decade.
- The combined unemployment, inflation and mortgage rate is at its **lowest level since 1968**.
- **Highest level of homeownership in 15 years.**
- Initiated a **National Homeownership Strategy** to help 8 million Americans become new home owners by the year 2000.

Creating Economic Security

- Fought for and enacted meaningful **health insurance reform** to allow people to keep coverage when they change or lose their jobs and prevent denial of coverage due to pre-existing conditions. (Health Coverage Availability and Affordability Act).

- Raised the **minimum wage** to provide the opportunity for working Americans to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.
- Protected the pensions of 40 million workers and retirees by **reforming the federal pension insurance system** and requiring companies to keep their retirement plans sufficiently funded. (Retirement Protection Act)
- Proposed a **\$2,600 job-training voucher** program to allow unemployed workers the freedom to choose the training programs that are right for them.
- Enabled Americans to **save for their retirements** by increasing pension portability, enhancing pension protection, expanding coverage, and making it easier for small companies to offer pensions to their workers by simplifying pension rules.. (Small Business Job Protections Act)

Opening New Markets to Create Jobs for U.S. Workers

- President Clinton stood up for American workers and opened more markets to U.S. goods and services by negotiating **200 separate trade agreements**, including NAFTA and GATT -- exports have surged **over one-third during the last three years**.
- **More than 1 million new export-related jobs** have been created under the Clinton Administration -- jobs supported by exports pay on average 15% more than other jobs.
- America is once again the **world's number one manufacturer of automobiles** -- overtaking Japan for the first time since the 1970's.
- American goods exported in sectors covered by Clinton Administration trade agreements with Japan have grown over 85% -- **three times faster** than growth in other U.S. goods exported to Japan.
- The United States was named the **most competitive major economy in the world** for the third year in a row.

Cutting Taxes for Small Businesses

- **Reduced taxes for businesses** that create jobs for economically disadvantaged workers (Small Business Job Protection Act)
- Proposed and enacted an increase in the small business expensing limit to **cut taxes and increase investment** for small business owners. (Small Business Job Protections Act; 1993 Economic Plan)
- Reinstated the **research tax credit** to encourage businesses to invest in research and development. (Small Business Job Protections Act; 1993 Economic Plan)

Fourth Challenge: To Take Back Our Streets from Crime, Gangs and Drugs.

Won Passage Of The Toughest and Smartest Crime Bill Ever

- Puts **100,000 more police officers** on the street -- more than 44,000 officers have already been funded.
- Imposed a targeted **"Three-Strikes-and-You're-Out"** provision to put career violent offenders behind bars for life.
- Expanded the **death penalty** to include drug kingpins, murderers of federal law enforcement officers and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons.
- Provided funding for **100,000 more prison cells** to help states ensure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.
- The number of **murders fell 8%** in 1995 -- one of the largest decreases in more than 30 years. **Violent crime dropped 4%** and the nation's largest cities saw **overall crime fall 6%** during the same period.

Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Criminals

- Stood up to the gun lobby and won passage of the **Brady Bill** -- as a result, more than **60,000 fugitives, felons and other criminals** have already been blocked from buying handguns.
- Banned the manufacture and importation of **19 of the deadliest assault weapons** while specifically protecting more than 650 legitimate sporting weapons. (Assault Weapons Ban)
- Initiated a partnership between local and federal law enforcement to **crack down on crime gun traffickers**, by tracing firearms found on youths back to the gun traffickers.

Combating Drug Use

- Developed a comprehensive **National Drug Control Strategy** that will reduce illegal drug use through law enforcement, prevention, treatment and interdiction.
- Breaking the cycle of drugs and crime through **universal drug testing** in the criminal justice system and by providing funding for **drug courts**.
- The number of Americans who use cocaine has **declined 30% since 1992**.
- Drug case prosecutions have **increased 13% since 1994** and federal prosecutors achieved an 85% conviction rate in all drug cases in 1994.

Fighting to End Domestic Violence

- Tripled funding for **battered women's shelters** and providing **\$156 million in state grants** to bolster local law enforcement, prosecution and victims' services to better address violence against women. (Violence Against Women Act)
- Established nationwide 24-hour **domestic violence hotline** providing immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals for those in need.

Cracking Down on Youth Violence

- Initiated a **Gang Tracking Network** that will provide law enforcement officials with the ability to quickly and efficiently exchange information on gang activity.
- Proposed **trying juveniles who commit violent or drug-related crimes as adults**; reinstating gun-free school zones; a \$75 million grant program for juvenile drug and gun courts; and **increasing the penalties** for drug dealers who sell drugs to children or use them to sell drugs. (Anti-Violence and Youth Crime Control Act)
- In 1995, the juvenile violent crime rate declined for the **first time in nearly a decade** and the juvenile murder rate **decreased more than 15%**.

Making Our Schools and Communities Safer

- Keeping dangerous weapons out of our children's classrooms by enforcing a **"Zero Tolerance" gun policy in schools**.
- Reducing **violence and drug abuse in our schools** by investing in school security, drug prevention programs and counseling. (Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act)
- Encouraged schools to consider adopting **school uniform policies** to reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect; communities to implement **curfews** to get children off the streets and out of harms way; and teachers and law enforcement to enforce **truancy** laws so that children are learning about life in school and not on the streets.
- Announced a **Citizen Patrol Phone Initiative** to help provide 50,000 cellular phones and free air time to citizen patrols and community blocks watches throughout the country.
- Focused the nation's attention and resources to help **stop the rash of church burnings** across the country, prosecute those responsible and speed the rebuilding process.

Securing America's Borders

- Stood firm against illegal immigration and deported a record **51,600 illegal and criminal aliens** in 1995 -- a 15% increase over 1994.
- Increased the number of Border Patrol agents at the southwest border by 40% and deployed underground sensors, infrared night scopes and encrypted radios, built miles of new fences and massive amounts of new lighting to stem the flow of illegal aliens into the United States.
- Moved forcefully to **protect American jobs** by calling upon Congress to enact increased civil and criminal sanctions against employers who hire illegal workers - since 1993, more than 30,000 illegal workers have been removed from jobs across the country.

Fifth Challenge: To Leave Our Environment Safe and Clean for the Next Generation.

Ensuring Public Health

- Made the air we breathe cleaner by issuing **new standards to cut toxic pollution** from chemical plants by **90%** and dangerous incinerator emissions by **98%**.
- Fought **attempts in Congress to roll back** the progress made in ensuring safe food and water for our families.
- Proposed and signed legislation to ensure that our families have **healthy, clean drinking water**. (Safe Drinking Water Act) Required drinking water systems to **test for and eliminate dangerous contaminants**.
- Issued **new standards to prevent E. coli bacteria contamination** in meat.
- Enacted legislation to strengthen standards for pesticides in food -- including special safeguards for children. (Food Quality Protection Act) Canceled 75 hazardous pesticides while moving safer substitutes into the market more quickly.
- Expanded the public's **right-to-know** about toxic releases and required polluters to disclose information to the public.
- Ensured compliance with environmental safeguards by **toughening EPA's enforcement programs**.
- Working with auto manufacturers to develop a "**clean car**" -- a partnership that could dramatically reduce toxic car emissions and triple gas mileage.
- With the Vice President, fought Republican Congressional attempts to gut the Superfund law that makes polluters -- rather than taxpayers -- pay to clean up toxic dumps. Vetoed Republican Congressional bill that cut Superfund clean ups by 25%.

Protecting our Natural Resources

- Fought attempts to close **national parks** and lift the ban on offshore oil drilling.
- Along with the Vice President, committed \$1.5 billion over seven years to help restore the unique **Florida Everglades**.
- Broke through decades of conflict and negotiated a consensus plan to protect and allocate **California Bay-Delta water**.
- Reached an agreement to **halt destructive mining** near Yellowstone National Park.

Common Sense Reforms to Environmental Programs

- With the Vice President, changed EPA rules and procedures to **reduce paperwork requirements** for businesses by 15 million hours.
- With the Vice President, initiated **Project XL** to achieve better public health and environmental protection at reduced cost by providing businesses the flexibility to explore innovative solutions to their environmental problems.
- Reformed wetlands and endangered species programs to lessen any adverse impact on homeowners without compromising environmental protection.
- Launched a **Brownfields Initiative** to return land to productive use by providing tax incentives to clean-up old industrial waste sites.

Sixth Challenge: To Maintain America's Leadership in the Fight for Freedom and Peace.

Protecting American Interests

- **Russian nuclear missiles** are no longer pointed at America's children and Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan gave up nuclear weapons altogether.
- Successfully secured bipartisan Senate ratification of the Start II Treaty to **reduce nuclear stockpiles** by another 25% with Russia.
- Persuaded North Korea to freeze and eventually **dismantle its dangerous nuclear weapons program**.
- Intensified the **fight against terrorism** by pressing for and signing new anti-terrorism legislation imposing sanctions on Iran and Libya for state-sponsored terrorism and providing law enforcement officials with tougher tools to stop terrorists before they strike, ensuring strong penalties for the convicted.
- Deployed two **aircraft carriers to Taiwan straits** when China conducted provocative military exercises.
- Imposed the **toughest sanctions ever** on Castro's Cuba following the brutal killing of U.S. nationals over international waters.
- Shaped new American military for post-Cold War challenges to peace, ensuring America remains the **best-equipped, best-trained and best-prepared fighting force in the world**.
- Swiftly **deployed U.S. forces** to deter a resurgent Iraqi threat.

Leading the Fight for Peace and Democracy

- After brokering **Dayton Peace Accords** and ending four years of rape, bloodshed, and ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, America is now helping to provide a secure environment so that elections and economic reconstruction can proceed.
- Championed peace efforts in the **Middle East** by negotiating the Israel-Jordan peace treaty and helping Israelis and Palestinians fulfill their historic peace agreement.
- Led international efforts to adopt **counter-terrorism initiatives** at the Summit of the Peacemakers in Egypt in March 1996, at the G-7 Economic Summit in France in June 1996, and most recently at the July 1996 Paris Terrorism Ministerials.

- Negotiated written agreement **between Syria and Israel** to end Hezbollah attacks on Israel and provide restoration of calm and protection of civilians on both sides of the Lebanon-Israel border.
- Restored democracy to **Haiti**, stopping the flow of refugees to the U.S. and accomplishing the first transfer of power from one democratically-elected president to another in Haitian history.
- Became the first American President to engage directly in pursuit of a just and lasting peace in **Northern Ireland**.
- Called for **expansion of NATO** alliance to extend European security and democracy.

Seventh Challenge: To Reform Our Political System and Make Government Work for the People.

Reforming Our Political System

- Made voting easier for more than 11 million Americans by creating more accessible "**motor-voter**" registration locations. (National Voter Registration Act)
- Enacted the **first major overhaul of lobbying rules in 50 years** -- now lobbyists must disclose the organizations for which they work. (Lobbying Disclosure Act)
- Fought for passage of **comprehensive campaign finance reform** to curb the influence of money in our political system.
- Imposed the strictest Administration **ethics guidelines** ever, including a five-year ban on top officials lobbying their former agencies and a lifetime ban against lobbying for foreign governments.
- Ensured that the **same laws apply to Congress** as to the rest of America. (Congressional Accountability Act)

Making Government Work Better and Cost Less

- Cut the federal civilian workforce by nearly **240,000 positions** -- the size of the federal government is now at its **lowest level in 30 years**.
- Eliminating more than **16,000 pages of unnecessary regulations**.
- Saved taxpayers **\$118 billion** by cutting wasteful government practices and spending through the Vice President's Reinventing Government efforts. Additional recommendations will save billions more.
- Prohibited Congress from imposing new requirements on state and local governments without paying for them. (Unfunded Mandates Reform Act)
- Fought for and signed **line-item veto** legislation to change the way Washington works by cutting spending on wasteful special-interest projects.
- Established a new "**Taxpayers' Bill of Rights**" for those dealing with the IRS.
- Transformed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (**FEMA**) from a disaster into a disaster relief agency.

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: MEETING AMERICA'S CHALLENGE OF CHERISHING OUR CHILDREN AND STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S FAMILIES

"Our first challenge is to cherish our children and strengthen America's families. Family is the foundation of American life. If we have stronger families, we will have a stronger America."

— President Clinton, State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

May 1996

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Cherishing Our Children

- Announced a breakthrough agreement with the media and entertainment industry to develop a **television ratings system** to enable parents to protect their children from violence and adult content.
- Gave parents greater control over what their children watch on television by requiring the installation of anti-violence screening chips ("**V-chips**") in all new televisions.
- Proposed targeted measures to cut off **children's access to tobacco products** and reduce their **appeal to children**.
- Established a Childhood Immunization Initiative to ensure **vaccinations and healthy futures** for all children. In 1995, the immunization rate for two-year old children reached 75%, an historic high.

Strengthening Our Families

- Enabled **workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave** to care for a family member without fear of losing their jobs. (Family and Medical Leave Act)
- Provided **tax relief for 15 million working families** by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit to allow more families to qualify for tax rebates.
- Helped families move from **welfare to work** by authorizing 37 states to bypass existing welfare rules and set time limits on benefits, require recipients to work or stay in school, provide child care and give employers incentives to hire welfare recipients. These waivers are making work and responsibility a way of life for 75% of all welfare recipients.
- Breaking the **cycle of welfare dependency** by requiring teenage mothers to live at home, stay in school and turn their lives around.

Ensuring Responsibility

- Collected a **record \$11 billion in child support** in 1995 through tougher enforcement, almost a 40% increase over 1992.
- Issued an Executive Order to help track down **federal workers who fail to pay child support**.
- Worked with community, business and religious leaders to form a **national campaign to reduce teen pregnancy**.

Making Our Communities and Schools Safer

- Won passage of the toughest, smartest Crime Bill ever which puts **100,000 more police officers** on the street; imposed a targeted **"Three-Strikes-and-You're-Out"** provision to put career violent offenders behind bars for life; expanded the **death penalty** to include drug kingpins, murderers of federal law enforcement officers and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons; and provided funding for **100,000 more prison cells** to help states ensure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.
- Stood up to the gun lobby and won passage of the **Brady Bill** — as a result, more than **60,000 fugitives, felons and other criminals** have already been blocked from buying handguns.
- Banned the manufacture and importation of **19 of the deadliest assault weapons** while specifically protecting more than 650 legitimate sporting weapons. (Assault Weapons Ban)
- Tripled funding for **battered women's shelters** and provided **\$26 million in state grants** to bolster local law enforcement, prosecution and victims' services to better address violence against women. (Violence Against Women Act)
- Established nationwide 24-hour **domestic violence hotline** providing immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals for those in need.
- Keeping dangerous weapons out of our children's classrooms by enforcing a **"Zero Tolerance" gun policy in schools**.
- Reducing **violence and drug abuse in our schools** by investing in school security, drug prevention programs and counseling. (Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act)
- Encouraged schools to adopt **school uniform policies** to help reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect.

Making the Necessary Investments in Education

- Increased **Head Start funding** by almost **\$800 million** to provide early education to tens of thousands of additional children in need.
- Supported the development of the **nation's first system of voluntary standards of excellence** for students while encouraging grassroots reforms to improve our schools. (Goals 2000: Educate America Act)
- Encouraged schools, colleges and employers to join in creating **school-to-work opportunities**, providing students with work-based learning and giving them new pathways from high school to good jobs and post-secondary education. (School-to-Work Opportunities Act)
- Gave schools **greater flexibility to use federal aid** and develop **effective teaching innovations** to help economically disadvantaged students achieve their full potential. (Improving America's Schools Act)

Preparing Our Schools for the 21st Century

- Proposed a **\$2 billion Technology Literacy Challenge Fund** to help communities and the private sector ensure that every student is equipped with the computer literacy skills needed for the 21st century.
- Launched an **Educational Technology Initiative** to connect every classroom to the Information Superhighway and provide all students with access to computers by the dawn of the next century.
- Challenged the technology industry to connect 20% of California's public schools to the **Information Superhighway** by the end of this school year. This challenge became a reality in March during Net Day '96.

Opening the Door to College

- Reformed the **student loan program**, making college more affordable this year for **5.5 million students** and saving taxpayers billions of dollars by cutting red tape and providing loans with flexible repayment options, including pay-as-you-earn plans. (Student Loan Reform Act)
- Enabled **45,000 volunteers to earn money for college** by serving their communities and their country in the **AmeriCorps** program. (National Service Act)

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

America is moving in the right direction. The crime rate is down, welfare rolls and food stamp participation are falling and the teen pregnancy rate has dropped. But, we still have more work to do to ensure the health, safety and futures of our families. That is why President Clinton has issued the following challenges:

- Congress should pass a **bipartisan welfare reform bill** that reinforces basic American values — work, responsibility and family.
- Congress should pass **meaningful health insurance reform** that allows people to keep coverage when they change jobs and prevents insurance companies from denying coverage due to pre-existing conditions.
- Families must **end domestic violence** and work harder at staying together.
- Media and entertainment industries must create movies, CD's and television shows more suitable for children.

A VISION FOR AMERICA FOR THE 21st CENTURY

*Background on President Clinton's Agenda
for the Nation*

**Acceptance Speech
Democratic National Convention
Chicago, Illinois
August 29, 1996**

OPPORTUNITY

MIDDLE CLASS BILL OF RIGHTS

- *Children's Tax Credit*
- *Expanded Individual Retirement Accounts*
- *Education Tax Deduction*
- *GI Bill For America's Workers*
- *Hope Scholarship Tax Cut*
- *Homeownership Capital Gains Proposal*

BUILDING ON WELFARE REFORM

- *Welfare-To-Work Challenge Fund*
- *Welfare-To-Work Tax Credit*
- *Protecting Food Stamp Beneficiaries*

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- *Community Development Financial Institution Investment Initiative*
- *Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Round Two*

RENEW OUR SCHOOLS AND OPEN WIDE THE DOORS OF COLLEGE

- *"America Reads" Challenge*
- *Public School Choice*
- *Charter Schools*
- *Dramatically Expand Access To College*
- *America's Technology Literacy Challenge*
- *School Construction Initiative*

HEALTH SECURITY

- *Protecting and Strengthening Medicare and Medicaid*
- *Building on Portability Protections: Health Insurance for the Temporarily Uninsured*
- *Making Insurance More Accessible and Affordable for Small Business and Their Employees*
- *Providing Mental Health Parity Across Health Insurance Products*
- *Protecting Mothers and Their Newborn Babies from Premature Discharge From Hospitals*
- *Opposing Restrictions on Doctor-Patient Communications*

RESPONSIBILITY

TOBACCO

- *Protecting Our Children From Tobacco*

FIGHTING CRIME, VIOLENCE, AND DRUGS

- *Domestic Violence and Firearms*
- *Cop Killer Bullets*
- *Gun Free Schools*
- *Tougher Sentences for Gun-Toting Drug Dealers*
- *Victim's Rights Constitution Amendment*
- *Keeping Our Children Safe in School and Off the Streets*
 - *School Uniforms*
 - *Truancy Prevention*
 - *Curfews*
- *Breaking the Cycle of Crime and Drugs*

IMMIGRATION

- *Streamlining Naturalization of Legal Immigrants*

CHILD SUPPORT

- *Child Support Enforcement Initiative*

COMMUNITY

MAKING WORKPLACES MORE FAMILY-FRIENDLY

- *Employee-Choice Flex-Time Proposal*
- *Expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act*

TV VIOLENCE

- *Three Hours of Quality Educational Programming*

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM TOXIC POLLUTION

- *Accelerating Superfund Toxic Waste Cleanup in Our Communities*
- *Expanding Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative*
- *Getting Tough on Criminal Polluters*
- *Expanding Americans' Right-to-Know About Toxics in Their Communities*
- *Making Water Safe and Clean for All Americans*

SECURITY, FREEDOM, PEACE

WORLD'S GREATEST FORCE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

- *Seizing the Opportunities and Meeting The Threats in a Time of Change*
- *Put Start II into Force to Cut Nuclear Stockpiles Even More*
- *Sign The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty*
- *Ratify The Chemical Weapons Convention*
- *New Counter-Terrorism Tools*

OPPORTUNITY

Fostering Opportunity For All Americans For The 21st Century

"We created economic opportunity to restore the American Dream. 10 million new jobs. The lowest combined rates of inflation and unemployment and mortgagees in 30 years. Wages rising again. And last week, I signed legislation raising the minimum wage, moving people from welfare to work, and assuring that when Americans change jobs, they can take their health insurance with them."

MIDDLE CLASS BILL OF RIGHTS

- *Children's Tax Credit*
- *Expanded Individual Retirement Accounts*
- *GI Bill For America's Workers*
- *Education Tax Deduction*
- *Hope Scholarship Tax Cut*
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- *America's Technology Literacy Challenge*
- *School Construction Initiative*

HEALTH SECURITY

- *Protecting and Strengthening Medicare and Medicaid*
- *Building on Portability Protections: Health Insurance for the Temporarily Uninsured*
- *Making Insurance More Accessible and Affordable for Small Business and Their Employees*
- *Providing Mental Health Parity Across Health Insurance Products*
- *Protecting Mothers and Their Newborn Babies from Premature Discharges from Hospitals*
- *Opposing Restrictions on Doctor-Patient Communications*

MIDDLE CLASS BILL OF RIGHTS

Tax Relief For Working Families

Children's Tax Credit

The President's seven-year balanced budget plan provides additional tax relief to working families. It would provide a tax credit of up to \$500 per every child under 13 to families with incomes up to \$75,000.

Expanded Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA)

The President has proposed to expand IRAs in order to provide greater incentives for savings and retirement and other important purposes. The President's proposal would do the following:

- Double the income limits for IRAs so more middle income Americans can save.
- Index contribution limits for inflation so the value of savings won't erode over time.
- Establish a new "Special IRA" where the contributions would not be tax deductible but the earnings would be tax free if the savings are kept in the account for at least five years.

A G.I. Bill for America's Workers

In the new economy, skills matter more. For workers, a year of either on-the-job or formal training raises wages by about as much as a year of college education. That is why the President challenged the Congress in December 1994 to enact a new GI Bill for America's Workers.

Now, the President has renewed his call for the Congress to pass his fundamental reform of the federal job-training system. The Administration's proposal would eliminate at least 70 separate job training programs, replacing them with an integrated system that minimizes red tape and maximizes individual choice in each local community. Unemployed and low-income workers would be able to get individual Skill Grants to use as they choose for learning new skills to find new and better jobs.

The President's proposal would also provide workers access, through networks of One-Stop Career Centers already under construction in the States, to reliable computerized data on jobs, careers, what skills are in demand, and the success records of training institutions, so that workers can make good choices to improve their futures. States and localities would have

flexibility to work in partnership with the private sector to tailor training programs and delivery systems to reflect local conditions and priorities.

The Administration proposal also includes a youth component. Federal education, training, and employment programs for youth would be reshaped to support the community-based school-to-work movement already underway in states under the School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994. The proposal will enable schools, colleges, and the private sector in each local community to offer all youth work-based learning opportunities and clear pathways to good jobs, rewarding careers, and lifelong learning.

Tuition Tax Deduction

The President continues his call for a deduction of up to \$10,000 a year for the cost of tuition and training. More than 17 million students stand to benefit from this proposal for tax relief to working families.

Hope Scholarship Tax Cut

Guarantees 2 years of tuition at the average community college for any student who earns a B average. Modeled on the successful Georgia HOPE Scholarship program, this new proposal provides all students with a \$1,500 refundable tax credit for full-time tuition in their first year (\$750 for half-time), and another \$1,500 in their second year if they work hard, stay off drugs, and earn at least a B average in their first year. This \$1,500 tax credit will pay for more than the full cost of tuition at the national average-priced community colleges -- and a downpayment at more expensive four-year schools.

Homeownership Capital Gains Proposal

Reducing tax burdens on homeowners, the President is calling for a dramatic change in the income tax treatment of home sales. Under current law, homeowners must maintain records of the cost of their home and any improvements made while living there in order to compute the amount of their gain when the home is sold. In addition, homeowners generally must purchase larger and more expensive homes to avoid incurring income tax liability on the sale. The President's proposal would completely eliminate record-keeping for virtually all homeowners by allowing up to \$500,000 in gain from sale of a home to be tax-free, if the home has been owned for at least two years. (Single taxpayers would have a \$250,000 gain exclusion.)

About 98 percent of all home sales are for less than \$500,000, therefore gains for these homeowners would be tax-exempt. In addition, even for home sales in excess of \$500,000, a gain of \$500,000 or more is quite rare. Under current law, about 150,000 taxpayers each year owe income tax on their home sales; the proposal would reduce that number to below 10,000. Untold thousands of taxpayers would no longer be feel compelled to purchase larger homes than

they need in order to avoid a potentially large income tax liability. And the benefit of reduced record-keeping would be reaped by over 60 million homeowners.

This proposal has three main benefits -- reduced tax burdens for those who sell their home (the revenue cost is about \$1.4 billion through 2002); reduced record-keeping burdens for virtually all homeowners; and more appropriate utilization of housing resources by eliminating a tax-induced bias toward purchasing larger homes.

BUILDING ON WELFARE REFORM

Moving People From Welfare to Work

Welfare-To-Work Challenge Fund

President Clinton's Welfare-To-Work (WTW) Challenge Fund is designed to result in the placement of one million harder-to-employ welfare recipients in jobs by the year 2000. If the goal is achieved, the Challenge Fund would ultimately provide \$3 billion, or \$3,000 per job, to States and localities.

- The Challenge Fund will complement State jobs and child care programs financed with welfare reform grants, the incentives for private employers to hire long-term welfare recipients in the President's Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit, and related job creation initiatives, such as Community Development Financial Institutions and Brownfields environmental clean up.
- To ensure jobs for the hardest to employ, the WTW Challenge will only provide full funding upon a showing of successful placements of the target population into jobs lasting at least nine months. The Federal payment per placement -- regardless of the actual cost of placement -- is \$3,000. The initial grant covers three-quarters of the Federal share of each placement, or \$2,250. For each successful placement, the grantee earns an additional \$750.
- WTW grants will be made for the placement of individuals who have been on welfare at least 18 months preceding job placement.
- Funds will be allocated to States and local areas by formula based on the number of individuals on welfare. States and the 200 cities with the highest number of individuals on welfare will plan and administer the funds, with strong private sector participation. The State may administer the funds for other parts of the State and, with the agreement of an otherwise eligible city, for the city. The State may delegate administration of funds in areas for which a city is not otherwise an eligible applicant, to a county or other entity of its choosing. This proposal would focus on Four broad types of activities:
 - a. Creating jobs through cleaning up and rebuilding communities.
 - b. Jobs in expanded child care.
 - c. Proven job creation/job placement models.
 - d. Other strategies. States and localities are free to devise whatever program plan they choose, as long as the plan makes clear that the result will be successful job placement, whether in the private, non-profit, or public sector.

Welfare-To-Work Tax Credit

Building off of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) -- signed into law by President Clinton on August 20, 1996 -- President Clinton will call for a Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit to help businesses create new jobs for the hardest-to-employ welfare recipients.

- The Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit would enable employers to claim a 50 percent credit on the first \$10,000 of wages for long-term welfare recipients. The business could claim this tax credit for up to two years, and would be able to treat education and training assistance, health care, and dependent care as eligible wages.
- Long-term welfare recipients are defined as (1) members of families that have received family assistance (AFDC or its successor program) for at least 18 consecutive months ending on the hiring date; (2) members of families that have received family assistance for a total of at least 18 months beginning on the date of enactment, provided that they are hired within two years of the date that the 18-month total is reached; and (3) members of families who are no longer eligible for family assistance because of Federal or state time limits, provided they are hired within two years of the date that they become ineligible for family assistance.
- This proposal would also expand the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to include adults age 18 to 50 who are no longer eligible for food stamps because they did not satisfy the minimum work requirements under the Welfare Reform Act of 1996.

Ensuring States Don't Unfairly Disqualify Legal Food Stamp Beneficiaries

The President directed the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure that States have the maximum time allowed under the law to make sure that legal immigrants who remain eligible for food stamp benefits receive them. The Secretary is to grant a waiver allowing any state, subject to certain legal restrictions, to extend the certification periods for eligibility for food stamps that apply to legal immigrants receiving assistance. The extension will give States time to develop the procedures needed to make accurate determinations of the many facts -- such as immigration classification, veteran status, or work history -- that the new law makes relevant to eligibility. The directive will decrease inaccurate or inequitable decisions to cut off food stamp benefits.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Creating Jobs, Encouraging Entrepreneurship, Promoting Bottom-Up Solutions

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Investment Initiative

President Clinton proposes to more than double the current Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) Fund and provide a new tax credit to investors who are investing in these community banks. Over time, it is estimated that this investment will result in at least \$5 billion of new lending and investing in distressed urban and rural communities.

- Expand The CDFI Fund to \$125 Million Next Year -- \$1.6 Billion Over Six Years -- Currently, the CDFI Fund has \$50 million to provide assistance to qualified community development institutions, even though it received applications for over \$300 million this year. Now, President Clinton proposes to more than double the CDFI Fund next year, increasing it to \$125 million as part of the FY 1997 Budget. Over six years, the Fund would receive more than \$1.6 billion.
- Create Tax Incentives to Increase Investment in Distressed Areas -- This initiative will provide \$100 million in nonrefundable tax credits that would be made available to the CDFI fund to be allocated among equity investors in qualified CDFIs.
 - Allocation. The allocation of credits would be determined by the CDFI Fund using a competitive process similar to the one used to allocate the \$50 million in assistance. The maximum amount of credit allocable to a particular investment would be 25% of the amount invested, though a lower percentage could be negotiated. The full credit would be available when the contribution is made (e.g., it could be claimed in the year the investment is made).
 - How Does It Work? The investor's tax basis in the equity interest would be reduced by the amount of the credit -- having the effect of increasing any capital gain, or reducing any capital loss -- in the event the investor sells interest in the CDFI. In order to ensure long-term investments, the credit would be invalidated if the investment is sold or redeemed within 5 years.

Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Round Two

The President has proposed creating a second round of Empowerment Zones (EZs)/Enterprise Communities (ECs). The second round would designate 20 additional EZs (15 urban, 5 rural or Indian nation) and 80 ECs (50 urban, 30 rural or Indian nation.) As in the first round, the President and Vice President would challenge low-income communities to develop comprehensive strategic plans for revitalization, with the input of a wide array of community partners. The government would invest in those communities that developed the most innovative plans and garnered significant local and private-sector commitments.

The additional EZs would have available a different combination of tax incentives than those available to existing zones. The current-law wage credit would not be available in the

new zones. However, additional Section 179 expensing and new tax incentives for the remediation of "brownfields" to EZs and ECs would be available. In addition, the new zones would qualify for private-facility bonds subject to separate per-zone caps that would be outside of the current-law State volume caps.

The additional communities would have available the same tax incentives that apply to the existing communities and the new "brownfields" tax incentive.

RENEW OUR SCHOOLS AND OPEN WIDE THE DOORS OF COLLEGE

To Compete and Win in the New Economy

"America Reads" Challenge: To Make Sure that Every Child is Literate by the End of the 3rd Grade

The President is asking all Americans to be part of a national, bipartisan effort to make sure that every child can read independently and well by the end of third grade. Parents, community groups, religious organizations, teachers, principals, and the private sector form the backbone of this effort, to mobilize parents and volunteer tutors. To catalyze these efforts and help community leaders, parents and educators the country, the President is proposing the \$2.75 billion "America Reads" Challenge. Four Main Components of President Clinton's "America Reads" Challenge:

- Parents As First Teachers Challenge Grants -- The President proposes a Parents as First Teachers Challenge Grant Fund that invests in success by supporting effective, proven efforts that provide assistance to parents who want to help their children become successful readers by the end of the 3rd grade. \$300 million in grants will be available over 5 years to national and regional groups as well as local communities and organizations.
- America's Reading Corps: Individualized After-School and Summer Tutoring for More Than 3 Million Children in Grades K-3 Who Want and Need It -- The President's proposal provides \$2.450 billion to support tutoring efforts. \$1.45 billion in new investments over 5 years, in addition to \$1 billion already specified in President Clinton's balanced budget for National Service participants, will be directed specifically to this reading challenge.
- 30,000 Reading Specialists and Volunteer Coordinators -- would be funded to help Communities provide extra reading help before and after school and during the summers for the 20,000 schools with the greatest need -- reaching more than 3 million children.
- National Goal to Mobilize 1 Million Tutors -- In order to provide individualized tutoring to all young children who need reading assistance, the President is challenging schools, libraries, civic groups, religious institutions, other community and national organizations, the media, universities, business leaders, college work study students, millions of our nation's senior citizens, and the entire nation, to mobilize 1 million volunteers for this effort. This builds on the success of existing community tutoring programs as well as National Service programs like AmeriCorps and RSVP Senior Volunteers. 11,000 AmeriCorps members will support locally-designed reading efforts.
- Providing 1 Million 3 and 4 year olds with a Head Start -- President Clinton's balanced budget includes a major expansion of Head Start so that it can reach 1 million preschool children in 2002.
- Challenge to Private Sector -- This new "America Reads" initiative builds on Clinton Administration efforts to work with the private sector in helping our

children learn how to read, such as the "Partnership for Family Involvement in Education" and "Read*Write*Now."

Public School Choice

President Clinton believes that information, competition, and choice among public schools should be the rule, not the exception. Parents who are dissatisfied with their child's or a school's performance should have the opportunity to choose a public school that will do better. The President has challenged every State to give all parents the right to choose which public school their children will attend.

Charter Schools

The President is calling on all 50 states to enact charter school laws within 12 months. Twenty-five states currently have laws providing for the creation of charter schools -- public schools, created and managed by parents, teachers and administrators. They are held accountable for their results through a performance-based contract with a local school board, state, or other public institution.

The President will also be asking for a substantial increase in federal funding for his charter schools program, up to \$40 million annually, to help local efforts to start nearly 3,000 new charter schools over the next five years. At least three states -- Massachusetts, Michigan, and Minnesota -- have used funds from Goals 2000 to launch new charter schools.

Dramatically Expand Access To College

President Clinton is deeply committed to ensuring that all deserving students can afford to go to college, and to helping American families invest in their children's and their nation's future. That is why he will continue to block attempts to cap the Direct Lending Student Loan program, which makes college more accessible by allowing students to repay loans as a percentage of their income and by cutting out the middle man and eliminating red tape. That is also why he will block attempts to cut Pell Grant Scholarships and instead wants to increase their number and the maximum award.

He will also fight to protect the National Service program, AmeriCorps. This year, 25,000 young people can earn college money by serving their local communities.

Now, President Clinton calls for the enactment of three key initiatives to increase access to and the affordability of college education. Each of these proposals rewards responsible students and hard-working families.

- Merit Scholarships -- The President calls for the creation of the largest-ever merit-based scholarship program, rewarding the top 5% of graduates in every high school -- over 125,000 students annually -- with \$1,000 grants toward the cost of college. The scholarships, rewarding excellence and achievement, will be awarded to the top five percent of graduating students in every secondary school in the United States.

- Expansion Of Work Study -- The President proposed a dramatic expansion of the College Work Study program, from 700,000 students to over one million over the next five years. This nearly 50 percent increase will significantly expand a program that reaffirms the American ethic, rewarding hard work and helping ensure that all who want a higher education are able to afford it.
- Scholarship Increases (Pell Grants) for Lower-Income Students -- The President has also proposed that his balanced budget plan increases Pell Grants each year. Indeed, the maximum Pell Grant award will increase by 33% from fiscal 1995 to fiscal 2000. The proposed fiscal 1997 increase in the maximum award would be the largest since the implementation of the program in the 1970s.

America's Technology Literacy Challenge

Nothing is more critical to preparing our public schools for the 21st century than ensuring they have the modern technology to prepare students for the information age. The President challenges the nation to work together in a major new national effort to connect every classroom in America to the information highway and help every student become technologically literate for the 21st century. Specifically the President has four goals: (1) Provide access to modern computers for all teachers and students; (2) Connect every school in America to the Information Superhighway; (3) Develop effective software in all subject areas, and (4) Give every teacher the development they need to help students use and learn through technology.

To reach these goals the President has announced he will lead a national effort that will include the following initiatives:

- The President and Vice President will lead an effort to wire all of the nation's classrooms and libraries for computer access to the Internet by the year 2000.
- The President is calling for the creation of an Technology Literacy Challenge Fund -- a private/public partnership to help ensure that every student has adequate access to a cutting-edge computers and every teacher has the skills and software to make the best possible use of available technology.
- Challenge to educational software and entertainment leaders to produce better educational software to make learning more exciting and interesting.

School Construction Initiative

As America moves into the 21st century, our schools should too. If our schools are in no shape for future, our students won't be either. The President has proposed a school construction initiative that includes the following:

- Up to 50% Interest Subsidy for New School construction and Renovation -- The initiative will reduce interest costs on new school construction and renovation projects by up to 50%, with a sliding subsidy scale depending on need.
- \$20 billion in School Construction Spurred by \$5 billion in Federal Jump-Start Funding over 4 Years -- The interest reduction is equivalent to subsidizing \$1 out of every \$4 in construction and renovation spending. \$5 billion in Federal

funding over 4 years -- with most of the money administered by the States -- would support \$20 billion in construction and renovation. One of the key criteria in distributing funds to projects will be the extent to which the spending is incremental -- above what would have occurred without this initiative.

- Goal of 25% Increase in School Construction Over 4 Years -- National spending on school construction and renovation is currently about \$10 billion a year or \$40 billion over 4 years. By focusing on incremental or net additional construction projects, this initiative aims to ensure that at least half of the \$20 billion supported subsidies would not have otherwise occurred. This would increase school construction by at least \$10 billion to a total of \$50 billion over 4 years -- increasing school construction 25%.
- One-Time Construction Initiative Fully Paid for by One-Time Spectrum Auction -- A one-time auction of portions of the spectrum between channels 60-69 will fully fund this jump-start proposal.
- State and Local Government Maintain Responsibility and Control -- States would administer the bulk of the subsidies, while the largest school districts would apply directly to the U.S. Department Education. State participation would be voluntary.

HEALTH SECURITY

Ensuring Americans Have Access to Affordable, High-Quality Health Care

Protecting and Strengthening Medicare and Medicaid

Medicare. The President's proposal preserves and strengthens Medicare. In so doing, he rejects programmatic changes that harm beneficiaries and providers. Instead, the President proposes reforms that achieve savings that extend the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for ten years from today, make a significant contribution to reduce the deficit, add new cost-effective preventive benefits, and provide a new respite benefit for families of beneficiaries with Alzheimer's disease.

In addition, the President's proposal would modernize the Medicare program and begin to prepare it for the retirement of the baby boom population. The plan expands plan choices for beneficiaries to include HMOs with a point-of service option, Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs), and Provider Service Networks. These options work to promote competition on the basis of cost and quality, rather than to "cherry-pick" at the expense of the sick and the elderly.

Medicaid. Like the Medicare program, the President calls on the nation to maintain its commitment to a strong, but more flexible and cost-conscious Medicaid program. The President successfully defeated the Republican Leadership's proposal to block grant the Medicaid program, thus assuring that millions of our most vulnerable Americans would not lose guaranteed health care coverage or benefits. Instead, President Clinton advocates making the program more flexible by removing unnecessary Federal health care delivery and reimbursement strings that tie a Governor's hands in administering an efficient and responsive program. In so doing, however, he maintains the Federal guarantee to a set of meaningful benefits, retains financial and quality protections for the states (through his per capita cap, which provides more dollars during economic downturns), eliminates the burdensome waiver process for managed care and home and community alternatives to institutionalization, and continues protections of recipients and their families (through retention of nursing home quality, protections against spousal impoverishment, and family financial resources protections, and retention of coverage of low-income Medicare beneficiaries' premiums and cost-sharing).

Building on Portability Protections: Health Insurance for the Temporarily Unemployed.

To respond to a rapidly changing economy in which workers frequently change jobs, the President proposed an initiative to address affordability of health care coverage for workers in transition from job-to-job. This proposal would provide premium assistance to temporarily unemployed workers and their families for up to six months of coverage. This provision would take the next logical step toward improving coverage to millions of working Americans and their families are at risk of not being able to afford coverage. In so doing, it would assure that individuals retain the continuous health care coverage necessary to receive portability benefits under the Kennedy/Kassebaum health insurance reform bill.

This program would provide assistance to approximately 3 million Americans, including 700,000 children. It would cost about \$2 billion a year paid for in the context of the President's balanced budget.

Making Insurance More Accessible and Affordable For Small Business and Their Employees.

To help provide small businesses with the type of purchasing clout larger businesses have, technical assistance and funding would be provided to states to set up voluntary purchasing cooperatives. Under the President's plan, the State or certified purchasing cooperatives could request that commercial insurers providing Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans (FEHBP) also offer insurance products to small businesses in a voluntary purchasing cooperative. To assure cost control within the Federal program, the Federal employee and private sector "pools" would be kept separate.

Providing Mental Health Parity Across Health Insurance Products.

The President has endorsed the compromise mental health parity initiative proposed by Senator Domenici. It would require that health plans who use lifetime and annual spending caps for covered services could not treat the coverage of mental illness in a different and discriminatory manner.

Protecting Mothers and Their Newborn Babies from Premature Discharges from Hospitals.

The President endorses reforms that will guarantee mothers the quality of care they need when they have had a baby. Over the past two decades, the average length of stay for an uncomplicated childbirth has declined sharply. Today, a growing number of insurance companies are refusing to pay for anything more than a 24-hour stay, and as few as 8 hours. Premature discharge can lead to serious health consequences for both mothers and children. Because he believes that beneficiaries should be guaranteed coverage for needed health services, President Clinton strongly supports initiatives to allow all new mothers a minimum of 48 hours of care following most normal deliveries. Decisions about medical care for newborns and their mothers should be left with doctors, nurses, and mothers themselves, not insurers.

Opposing Restrictions on Doctor-Patient Communications

The President opposes "gag orders" that have been used by some health plans to restrict medical communications between doctors and their patients. Currently, some health plans require doctors to sign contracts that may inappropriately limit their ability to give patients information about referrals and alternative treatment. Because President Clinton believes that health care providers should not be restricted in what they say to their patients, he supports legislation such as the "Patient Right to Know Act," (introduced by Congressmen Ganske and Markey) which would bar health plans from restricting doctor-patient communications. This legislation is supported by 45 health care organizations including: the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the National Council of Senior Citizens, and the Consumers Union.

Results Speak For Themselves

- ✓ 10 million new jobs have been created since 1993 -- 93% are in the private sector and in the last two years, two-thirds of the new full-time jobs are high wage jobs.
- ✓ We have the lowest combined rate of unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rates in nearly 30 years.
- ✓ We have 4.4 million more homeowners -- highest level in fifteen years.
- ✓ The deficit has been cut more than in half and is the smallest share of the economy
- ✓ 45,000 young people have taken advantage of the opportunity to work their way through college by serving their communities through Americorps.
- ✓ SAT math scores have reached their highest level in nearly 25 years and ACT scores have gone up for the third time in the last 4 years.

RESPONSIBILITY

Encouraging Responsibility In All Americans For The 21st Century

"We have worked hard and long to bring our country to this point. If we have our convictions and we stand for them -- if we hold out our hands in cooperation, but always stand up for what we know is right -- this country's future will be even brighter than its brilliant past. It is our responsibility to make that happen."

TOBACCO

- *Protecting Our Children From Tobacco*

FIGHTING CRIME, VIOLENCE, AND DRUGS

- *Domestic Violence and Firearms*
- *Cop Killer Bullets*
- *Gun Free Schools*
- *Tougher Sentences for Gun-Toting Drug Dealers*
- *Victim's Rights Constitution Amendment*
- *Keeping Our Children Safe in School and Off the Streets*
 - *School Uniforms*
 - *Truancy Prevention*
 - *Curfews*
- *Breaking the Cycle of Crime and Drugs*

IMMIGRATION

- *Streamlining Naturalization of Legal Immigrants*

CHILD SUPPORT

- *Child Support Enforcement Initiative*

1. The first part of the document is a letter from the author to the reader, explaining the purpose of the study and the methods used. The letter is dated 1st January 1998 and is addressed to the reader.

TOBACCO

Cracking Down on the Illegal Sale of Tobacco to Minors

Protecting Our Children From Tobacco

Approximately 4.5 million children under 18 smoke cigarettes or use smokeless tobacco in the United States. Every day, almost 3,000 more children become regular smokers, and nearly 1,000 of these will have their lives shortened by tobacco-related disease.

To fight the pediatric disease of nicotine addiction, President Clinton announced a new initiative to reduce tobacco use by children. Specifically, President Clinton's new initiative is a comprehensive measure designed to stop sales of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco to children, prevent tobacco companies from appealing to children in their advertisements, and educate children about the dangers of tobacco.

FIGHTING CRIME, VIOLENCE, AND DRUGS
The First Responsibility of Government is Law and Order

Domestic Violence and Firearms

In 1993, President Clinton signed the Brady Law which has prevented over 60,000 felons, fugitives and others from buying handguns. The 1994 Clinton Crime Bill effectively extended the Brady Law to stalkers and harassers who are under restraining orders. That provision is beginning to take hold. In Kentucky alone, over 300 stalkers were prohibited from buying firearms in one year. But many spouse abusers are not covered by this law. Because of plea bargaining or the downgrading of an offense, the overwhelming majority of domestic violence cases are misdemeanors not felonies. The result is that these offenders are still free under federal law to possess a firearm.

Senator Frank Lautenberg and Representative Robert Torricelli have been pushing for legislation that would prohibit those convicted of any offense involving domestic violence -- misdemeanor or felony -- from owning or possessing a firearm. President Clinton is calling on Congress to disarm domestic violence offenders and pass legislation like the Lautenberg Bill before the end of the session. This bill would amend the 1968 Federal Firearms statute so that if a person is convicted of any crime of domestic violence -- not just a felony -- they forfeit the right to possess a handgun. To help states enforce this measure, President Clinton's 1994 Crime Bill is providing funding to improve their criminal history record-keeping abilities and in 1996 specifically instituted a "National Stalker and Domestic Violence" record-keeping program.

Cop Killer Bullets: "The Saving Law Enforcement Officers' Lives Act of 1995"

Criminals should not have access to handgun ammunition that can pierce bullet-proof vests worn by law enforcement officers. That is why President Clinton sent to Congress last summer the "Saving Law Enforcement Officers' Lives Act of 1995," which would ban cop killer bullets. Although current law provides limits on ammunition based on the specific materials from which it is made, it does not address the problem of excessively powerful ammunition based on its performance. President Clinton's legislation directs the Secretary of Treasury to promulgate regulations that will prohibit the manufacture, importation, and distribution of handgun ammunition that can pierce standard bullet-proof vests.

In developing these regulations, the Secretary will consult with law enforcement, body armor and ammunition manufactures, sporting groups, and the academic research community. In addition, Congress is provided a 45-day opportunity to review the regulations and disapprove of them. This legislation would limit the availability of this ammunition without affecting the needs of legitimate sporting enthusiasts. Most importantly, it will save police officers' lives. Unfortunately, the gun lobby has held this legislation hostage. President Clinton is calling on Congress to stop endangering the lives of police officers and send this legislation to him before the end of the session.

Gun Free Schools

As President Clinton has said, we must do everything in our power "to make schools places where young people can be safe, where they can learn, where parents can be confident that discipline is enforced... If young people can't learn in safety, they can't learn at all." Eliminating guns from schools is a critical step toward that goal. A survey conducted earlier this year found that one in eight youths -- two in five in high crime neighborhoods -- reported having carried a gun for protection. One in nine said they had stayed away from school because of fear of violence. That number jumped to one in three in high crime neighborhoods.

It is for these reasons that the President transmitted to Congress the "Gun-Free School Zones Amendments Act of 1995." The Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1995 would revise the Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990, which was invalidated by the Rehnquist Court in United States v. Lopez. As enacted in 1990, the Act prohibited possession of any firearm in a school zone. The 1990 Act passed through Congress strongly supported by both parties and signed by President Bush. It was a simple but important measure -- it made it illegal to have a gun within 1,000 feet of a school. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court held the law unconstitutional ruling that the federal government could not regulate this activity because it did not have enough to do with interstate commerce.

As revised by this new legislation, the Act would require that the government prove in each prosecution that the firearm in question "has moved in or otherwise affects interstate or foreign commerce." President Clinton is challenging Congress to move forward on this legislation before they recess for the end of the session. The safety of our children is too important to delay for another year.

Tougher Sentences for Gun-Toting Drug Dealers

Law enforcement needs every tool to prosecute these armed gangs. Unfortunately, a recent Supreme Court decision tied the arms of Federal prosecutors in their efforts to prosecute violent gangs. In Bailey v. United States, the Supreme Court severely restricted Federal prosecutors ability to prosecute drug traffickers and gang members for "using" a weapon in a criminal offense. Left to stand, Bailey will result in lighter sentences for these criminals. Over the last 5 years, the provision in question in Bailey was used 13,424 times by federal prosecutors.

The Clinton Administration has responded to the Supreme Court's restrictive ruling by proposing the "Enhanced Prosecution and Punishment of Armed Dangerous Felons Act of 1996." This bill would legislatively overrule the Bailey decision and return an important prosecutorial tool to law enforcement. President Clinton believes that drug traffickers and gang members who use firearms in criminal offenses should receive the toughest sentence possible, and he is calling on Congress to move forward on this legislation.

Victims' Rights Constitution Amendment

Victims have no constitutional right to learn about the release of the accused or convicted offender. They have no right to attend the trial. They have no right to speak at parole hearings. When a defendant's federal constitutional rights are even remotely implicated, a victim's

assertion of a state or federal statutory right or state constitutional right is often automatically rejected. Our Constitution does not provide a single express right for crime victims. President Clinton and his Administration have a longstanding commitment to ensuring that our criminal justice system is responsive and protective of the rights and concerns of victims.

Towards that end, President Clinton has called for a constitutional amendment that will provide rights for the victims of crime. He is calling upon the bipartisan Congressional leadership, the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, and law enforcement to work with the Administration to provide constitutional rights for victims that will guarantee the right to have notice of, and not to be excluded from, public court proceedings; to be heard by the trial court on release of the accused, the sentence, and acceptance of any plea, if present at the proceedings; to have notice and to attend and be heard in relation to parole hearings; to be given notice of any release or escape from custody of the defendant; to restitution from the defendant; to reasonable measures to protect the victim from violence and intimidation by the defendant; and to notice of these rights.

Keeping Our Children Safe in School and Off the Streets

- School Uniforms -- President Clinton has encouraged schools to adopt school uniform policies, which promote discipline and respect. The Administration has developed a guide for schools to assist them in establishing these policies, which are being distributed to 16,000 school districts nationwide. School uniforms are one step that can help break the cycle of violence, truancy and disorder that afflict too many of our schools. If it means teenagers will stop killing each other over designer jackets, the our public schools should be able to require their students to wear school uniforms.
- Truancy Prevention -- President Clinton also believes that early and comprehensive efforts to prevent truancy strengthen families and help keep our children moving forward in life. Truancy prevention initiatives have been shown to keep more children in school and dramatically reduce daytime crime in communities ranging from Monrovia, California to New York City. President Clinton believes that educators must work with parents, local law enforcement, and child service agencies to demand responsibility of students and their families and provide positive incentives which encourage school attendance. The Department of Education announced a \$10 million discretionary grant program to address the issue of truancy. The Department, using money from the Safe and Drug Free Schools program, will award up to 25 grants to schools and community groups to design and operate programs that will get truants and other students who are not in school back into school
- Curfews -- President Clinton has encouraged communities to look into how curfew programs can benefit local children. Curfews, when they are backed by a community of support and are a part of a larger plan to help fight juvenile crime, can play an important role in keeping our children safe. Comprehensive curfew enforcement programs often bring together the law enforcement community and juvenile and family court judges with representatives from the social services and the education, recreation, religious and medical communities. When communities work together, juvenile delinquency and victimization can be decreased.

Breaking the Cycle of Crime and Drugs

Illegal drugs are an enormous factor behind the current levels of crime and violence in America. More than half of all individuals brought into the state criminal justice systems have substance abuse problems. We continue to witness the same criminal addicts cycling through the court, corrections and probation systems with little effort to change their behavior.

Over the last four years, the Clinton Administration has instituted effective policies and programs that are helping to break the cycle of crime and drugs -- creating drug courts, proposing drug testing for Federal arrestees, and tougher penalties for drug dealers. In addition, President Clinton has worked to take violent criminals off our streets and insure that they serve their time. His 1994 Clinton Crime Bill provides states \$7.9 billion to improve their existing prisons and to build new ones to keep our streets safe from violent criminals and he challenged states in the 1996 State of the Union to implement truth-in-sentencing so that prisoners serve their time.

Now, President Clinton is working to insure that all prisons are drug-free and convicts break their addiction. Under the Clinton initiative, state prisons will be required to adopt comprehensive drug testing policies so that criminals do not leave a prison still hooked on drugs destined to commit more crimes on or for drugs. And under the Clinton strategy, parolees who do drugs are going right back in.

IMMIGRATION

We Are a Nation of Immigrants

Streamlining Naturalization of Legal Immigrants

This Administration is committed to eliminating the waiting lists of those legal immigrants eligible for citizenship. To accomplish this, the Administration launched "Citizenship U.S.A.," the most ambitious citizenship effort in history. Since 1995, this effort has increased the number of citizenship applications processed by INS by 134%. President Clinton has called on INS to process and swear-in within 6 months of application all individuals eligible for citizenship. As this target is met, more than one million newcomers will become citizens by the end of this year.

The new reforms include increasing staff dedicated to the application process, streamlining the application process -- in part through electronic filing, working with local officials and community based groups to expand outreach to eligible newcomers and developing recommendations for implementation with respect to public/private efforts to teach English to those needing to improve their English language skills.

CHILD SUPPORT

Living Up to One's Responsibility as a Parent

Child Support Enforcement Initiative

Today the President is announcing four steps that can be implemented immediately to increase child support collections:

- Extending and expanding a project that uses the IRS and its enforcement tools to collect debts from individuals who are delinquent in their child support payments.
- Ordering that a streamlined Federal system be activated to offset child support debts against most Federal payments.
- Ordering Federal agencies to take all necessary steps under existing law to deny loans, loan guarantees, loan guarantees, or loan insurance (including FHA housing loans, SBA small business loans, and student loans) to any individual who is delinquent on a child support debt.
- Ordering Federal agencies to take all necessary steps under existing law to deny, suspend, terminate, or revoke Federal licenses, permits, contracts, or privileges (such as FAA pilot licenses, NRC and EPA materials permits, FCC broadcasting licenses, etc.) to individuals who owe child support.

The Results Speak For Themselves

- ✓ *Since President Clinton has been in office, the welfare rolls have dropped by 1.6 million and the Food Stamp rolls have dropped by 1.3 million.*
- ✓ *A record \$11 billion was collected in child support in 1995 -- a 40% increase over 1992.*
- ✓ *Teen pregnancy has leveled off and begun to drop for the first time in years.*
- ✓ *The Brady Law has prevented 60,000 felons, fugitives and other criminals from buying handguns.*
- ✓ *The violent crime arrest rate for juveniles dropped for the first time in 7 years, and the juvenile murder arrest rate has dropped by 15% -- the largest one-year decline in more than a decade.*
- ✓ *Crime is down four years in a row. The number of murders fell by 8% in 1995 -- one of the largest declines in more than 30 years. The nation's largest cities saw overall crime fall 6%.*
- ✓ *Putting 100,000 new police on the street -- more than 44,000 officers have already been funded.*

COMMUNITY

Reinforcing Our Sense Of Community For The 21st Century

" As we prove to ourselves again that, as a community, we can work together to keep our children safer, to make our schools modern and strong, to make our nation more secure, we must fight against any force that would divide us rich from poor, black from white, and certainly generation from generation. We must, as we always have, respect and honor the legacy of the past. But I for one want the bridges we build always to be bridges to the future. America's best days are not behind us; America's best is yet to come."

MAKING WORKPLACES MORE FAMILY-FRIENDLY

- *Employee-Choice Flex-Time Proposal*
- *Expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act*

TV VIOLENCE

- *Three Hours of Quality Educational Programming*

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM TOXIC POLLUTION

- *Accelerating Superfund Toxic Waste Cleanup in Our Communities*
- *Expanding Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative*
- *Getting Tough on Criminal Polluters*
- *Expanding Americans' Right-to-Know About Toxics in Their Communities*
- *Making Water Safe and Clean for All Americans*

MAKING WORKPLACES MORE FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Putting Families First

Employee-Choice Flex-Time Proposal

President Clinton's employee-choice flex-time proposal would help to make workplaces more family friendly by ensuring worker flexibility while guarding against abuses by coercive or unstable businesses -- with explicit protections against coercion. President Clinton's proposal would allow more Americans to have the time they need to fulfill their responsibilities as both workers and as parents or grown children of elderly relatives. Under the President's proposal:

- Workers could agree with their employers to receive extra paid time-off -- "flex-time" -- instead of working overtime for cash pay -- Consistent with existing law, workers would get time-and-a-half in flex-time -- extra paid time-off -- for each hour of overtime. There would be a limit of 80 hours that a worker could accumulate in flex-time. And all additional overtime work -- beyond the limit -- would have to be paid in cash.
- Employees can choose to use their flex-time for family and medical leave purposes whenever they need it. At any time, workers can use their flex-time for family and medical leave purposes -- to care for a new born or adopted child, to attend to their own serious health needs, or to care for a seriously ill child, parent, spouse.
- Workers maintain ultimate control of when to use flex-time, as long as they provide two weeks notice to their employers -- Employees can use flex-time for any purpose as long as the worker gives at least two weeks of notice to his or her employer, or with less notice if the employer's operations are not unduly disrupted. Private-sector employees may elect to cash out their flex-time for cash due as long as two weeks of notice is given to their employer.
- To protect against abuses by coercive or unstable businesses, the employee-choice flex-time proposal includes explicit protections against coercion -- Employees and employers would have a written flex-time agreement and Private-sector workers can get cash for their accumulated flex-time within two weeks of notice.

Expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act

President Clinton has proposed expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover more family obligations to better help working families care for their children and elderly relatives without sacrificing their work obligations. Under the proposed expansion, workers could take up to 24 hours of leave each year to meet additional specified family obligations, including routine doctors appointments and parent-teacher conferences. Leave could be taken for the following purposes:

- Participating in school activities directly related to the educational advancement of your child, such as parent-teacher conferences or interviewing for a new school;

- Accompanying your child to routine dental or medical appointments, such as annual checkups or vaccinations;
- Accompanying an elderly relative to routine medical appointments or other professional services related to their care, such as interviewing nursing homes or group homes.

CUT DOWN ON TV VIOLENCE

Helping Parents Control What Their Children See on Television

Three Hours of Quality Educational Programming

President Clinton wants to give parents the information they need to determine what their children should see and hear on television. That's why the Clinton Administration worked to give parents greater control over what their children watch on television by requiring the installation of anti-violence screening chips ("V-Chips") in all new televisions. The President also announced an agreement with the media and entertainment industry to develop a television ratings system to enable parents to protect their children from violence and adult content.

And just recently, the Clinton Administration joined together with the four major networks, the National Association of Broadcasters and advocates for educational television to support a new proposal to require broadcasters to air three hours of quality educational programming each week. The Federal Communications Commission, soon after, voted unanimously to approve that requirement. We must continue to support the positive values that television can bring to our families and protect our children from mindless violence and adult content.

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM TOXIC POLLUTION
*Ensuring the Air We Breathe Is Pure, the Water We Drink Is Clean,
the Land We Live on Safe from Hazard*

Accelerating Superfund Toxic Waste Cleanup in our Communities

President Clinton is announcing a new commitment for toxic waste cleanup: nearly doubling the pace of cleanup. As a result, approximately two-thirds of the 1387 toxic sites now on Superfund's national priorities list (NPL) will be cleaned up by the year 2000. In just three years, the Administration has already cleaned up more Superfund toxic sites than in the previous 12 years combined.

As part of the initiative, President Clinton is issuing an executive order to provide agencies that protect our lands and waters with new authority to make polluters clean up toxic waste sites they created. The President is also calling upon Congress to act before adjournment to reinstate the corporate levies that support the Superfund program, which lapsed during the budget impasse. This proposal was included in both the President's budget proposal and those of the Dole-Gingrich Congress.

Expanding Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative

President Clinton is expanding his Brownfields initiative, which promotes local cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated and abandoned urban properties. The President's proposal includes expansion of EPA grants to communities for site assessment and redevelopment planning, and support for revolving loans to finance brownfields cleanup efforts at the local level. This will result in cleanup at approximately 5,000 sites by 2000. The President's proposal includes expansion of HUD Economic Development Initiative (EDI) grants to leverage private, State, and local funds in support of efforts to redevelop the cleaned-up sites and create jobs for the surrounding communities. The HUD EDI grants are expected to leverage up to \$400 million in additional guaranteed loan financing through HUD's Section 108 loan guarantee program.

The President is also calling upon Congress to enact his brownfields tax incentive proposal before adjournment. This \$2 billion investment over seven years will generate more than \$10 billion in cleanup and development at 30,000 sites in communities across the country, including 17,000 sites by 2000. The brownfields tax incentive was first proposed in the 1996 State of the Union and described in detail March 11. Today's proposals would improve quality of life for up to 15 million Americans living near brownfields.

Getting Tough on Criminal Polluters

Illegal dumping of toxics and other environmental crimes are real crimes, and our families are the victims. Prosecutors, police, and investigators need better tools to protect our communities from the toxic threat posed by environmental criminals. President Clinton is calling on Congress to enact a new Environmental Crimes Bill, which will strengthen community protection against environmental criminals. This bill will ensure that the assets of environmental criminals can be secured quickly, and can be used to restore the communities they victimize.

The bill will require stronger penalties for the worst environmental crimes, such as those that cause serious injury or imperil law enforcement officers. The bill will strengthen our partnership with state and local law enforcement agencies by authorizing those agencies to recover their costs when they assist federal prosecutions. The bill will outlaw attempted environmental crimes, making it possible to conduct "sting" operations and otherwise to make an arrest before toxics are released into the environment. Current law does not allow prosecutors to stop environmental crime until the damage is done.

Expanding Americans' Right-to-Know About Toxics in Their Community

Every American has a right to know about toxic pollution in their neighborhood, and President Clinton is announcing steps to expand the information available to people -- without imposing more reporting or paperwork requirements.

First, the President is directing federal agencies to collect more data on key environmental health indicators and to compile that data into a user-friendly one-stop access point. By the year 2000, Americans will have an easy way to answer questions like "Is the air too polluted today to play outside?" and "Is the beach at my favorite lake clean enough for swimming this weekend?" This information will be available for the 75 largest metropolitan areas in the country through a comprehensive monitoring system with computer links to schools, libraries, community centers and home computers.

President Clinton is also directing federal agencies to work with parents, scientists, the business community, and Congress to provide better information to families, so that they will have the tools to protect themselves. President Clinton is calling for new proposals that meet three goals: assisting parents in assessing and avoiding unique environmental health risks to children from products and chemicals; providing information on the whole range of environmental health risk from toxics, including cancer, developmental, endocrine, and reproductive risks; and encouraging informed consumer choices by providing improved information.

Making Water Safe and Clean for All Americans

President Clinton is challenging Congress to deliver the drinking water protection promised when Congress enacted his proposals in the recent Safe Drinking Water Act, by fully restoring his requested funds for drinking water. President Clinton is also challenging Congress to protect rural threats to drinking water, by fully funding his programs for collecting data about pesticide use and runoff and assistance for protecting rural drinking water.

President Clinton is directing USDA to fully implement the authorities and resources in the 1996 Farm Bill for the protection of water quality. President Clinton's executive order to give agencies new authority to make polluters clean up pollution will largely affect toxic water pollution.

Finally, the President is announcing an expanded commitment to reducing toxic pollution in the Great Lakes, with greater national Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grants and technical assistance to States, building on the success of the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative, which under the Clinton Administration has put in place commitments that will reduce toxics.

The Results Speak For Themselves

- ✓ Over 12 million Americans have already taken advantage of the Family and Medical Leave Act.
- ✓ More toxic waste sites have been cleaned up during the last 3 years than in the previous 12 years combined.
- ✓ Committed \$1.5 billion over seven years to restore the unique Florida Everglades.
- ✓ Made the air we breathe cleaner by issuing new standards to cut toxic pollution from chemical plants by 90% and dangerous incinerator emissions by 98%.
- ✓ Halted destructive mining near Yellowstone National Park.
- ✓ Canceled 75 hazardous pesticides while moving safer substitutes into market more quickly.

SECURITY, FREEDOM, PEACE

The World's Greatest Force For Peace, Prosperity, And Freedom For The 21st Century

"We have kept America strong around the world. Tonight, no one, anywhere on this planet -- from Haiti, to South Africa, to Russia, to Bosnia, to the Middle East -- doubts that America is the strongest force for peace and freedom and prosperity in the world."

WORLD'S GREATEST FORCE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

- **Seizing the Opportunities and Meeting The Threats in a Time of Change**
- **Put Start II into Force to Cut Nuclear Stockpiles Even More**
- **Sign The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**
- **Ratify The Chemical Weapons Convention**
- **New Counter-Terrorism Tools**

WORLD'S GREATEST FORCE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

Leading with Strength, Steadiness, and Flexibility

Seizing the Opportunities and Meeting the Threats in a Time of Change

- We dramatically reduced the threat of weapons of mass destruction: there are no Russian missiles pointed at our people; Russia and the United States are cutting their arsenals; we helped rid Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan of nuclear weapons; we froze North Korea's nuclear program under international supervision; we extended indefinitely the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- We moved seemingly intractable conflicts closer to resolution in the Middle East, Northern Ireland, and Bosnia and strengthened democracy in Russia, Central Europe, Haiti, and Latin America
- We are bringing the nations of Europe closer together by opening NATO's doors to its new democracies and supporting the forces of reform and free markets throughout the former Soviet Union.
- Through more than 200 trade agreements, we opened markets abroad and created more than million jobs at home. America is once again the number one exporter in the world.
- We are taking the fight to terrorists with a three part strategy: abroad by sharing information, opening new FBI offices, and when necessary imposing sanctions on those invest instates that sponsor terrorism like Iran and Libya; at home, by giving our law enforcement the strongest counter-terrorism tools available; in our airports and airplanes, by dramatically increasing aviation security.
- President Clinton has cracked down on international drug trafficking, denying assistance to countries that fail to join us in the war on drugs, arresting drug kingpins, expanding funding for the border patrol which has increased drug seizures by 40%, working to shut down front companies and money laundering.
- We completed the most successful military downsizing in history -- decreasing the size of our armed forces while increasing their readiness, capabilities and technological edge and providing for a 40% increase in weapons procurement by 2001.
- We're deploying a sensible National Missile Defense for the year 2000 that could be deployed by 2003 -- well before the threat of a missile attack on American soil by a rogue nation becomes real.

Put START II into Force to Cut Nuclear Stockpiles Even More

In last year's State of the Union address, President Clinton called on the Senate to give its advice and consent to ratification of the Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II). The Senate ratified the Treaty on (). Now, President Clinton is working with Russia to assure that the Duma ratifies START I so that the Treaty enters into force. In combination with the START

I treaty, START II will eliminate launchers that carried over 14,000 of the 21,000 warheads deployed at the height of the Cold War -- a two-reduction. START also will eliminate the most destabilizing strategic nuclear arms -- heavy ICBMs and multiple warhead ICBMs.

Sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

President Clinton will work to convince other nations to sign immediately the CTBT Treaty negotiated by the 38 nations who participated in the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. American leaders since Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy have believed a comprehensive test ban would be a major stride toward stopping the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Such a treaty would greatly strengthen the security of the United States and nations throughout the world. Such a treaty is within our reach.

In August, 1995, the President announced his decision to ban nuclear testing for all time by negotiating a true zero yield Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. This decision was a historic milestone in our efforts to reduce the nuclear threat and to strengthen U.S. and global security that will stop an entire generation of new nuclear weapons.

Ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention

The President calls upon the Senate to outlaw poison gas forever by ratifying the Chemical Weapons Convention immediately. The need is all the more urgent because of the risk that terrorists will acquire chemical weapons -- as those who poisoned thousands of commuters with Sarin gas in the Tokyo subway were able to do.

Since the use of chemical weapons in World War I, the United States has led the effort to control and ultimately eliminate them. We outlawed the wartime use of poisonous gas in the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and today President Clinton is working hard to outlaw not only the use but also the development, production, and possession of chemical weapons. Completed in 1992 and opened for signature in January 1993, 160 countries now have signed the Convention and 47 have ratified it. It is time the United States does so, too.

New Counter Terrorism Tools

The President urges Congress to give American law enforcement the tools they have asked for -- and they need -- to most effectively fight terrorism.

First, he will again ask Congress to add chemical markers called taggants to the most common explosives, so that bomb makers can be detected before they strike, and tracked down they do. And he will again request broader wiretap authorities for the police, so they can tap terrorists who use pay phones to plot their attacks.

Second, he will introduce the International Crime Control Act of 1996 and ask Congress to pass it immediately. The Act cracks down on money laundering to make it harder for criminals and terrorists to finance their activities; it gives our law enforcement broader power to extradite them, and it lengthens our reach in prosecuting and punishing those who commit violent crimes against Americans abroad.

After the bombing attack on the Murrah Federal Office Building in Oklahoma City, President Clinton asked Congress to expand anti-terrorism legislation he had already submitted. More than a year later, Congress finally sent the bill back to the President -- minus the taggants and wiretapping authority he had requested. After the pipe bomb attack in Atlanta during the Olympics, the President again called on Congress to act -- and called the Congressional leadership to the White House. President Clinton will continue to press Congress to give American law enforcement the tools they need until Congress acts.

The Results Speak For Themselves

- ✓ Peace has been restored to Bosnia and democracy has been restored to Haiti.
- ✓ Championed peace efforts in the Middle East by negotiating the Israel-Jordan peace treaty and helping Israelis and Palestinians fulfill their historic peace agreement.
- ✓ Shaped new American military for post-Cold War challenges to peace, ensuring America remains the best-equipped, best-trained and best-prepared fighting force in the world.
- ✓ Intensified the fight against terrorism and organized crime at home and abroad by enacting anti-terrorism legislation giving law enforcement officials tough new tools to stop terrorists before they strike.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E

05-Sep-1996 02:58pm

TO: Jennifer L. Klein

FROM: Jeffrey Levi
 AIDS Policy Council

SUBJECT: children's accomplishments

Perinatal Transmission. An NIH-sponsored clinical trial (ACTG 076) provided strong evidence that use of AZT by HIV-positive pregnant women dramatically reduced the rate of HIV transmission from mother to infant. The FDA expeditiously approved changes in labelling indications for AZT to include treatment of HIV-infected pregnant women. The U.S. Public Health Service issued guidelines in August 1994 on using AZT during pregnancy to reduce the risk of perinatal HIV transmission. In July 1995, CDC published PHS recommendations for routine HIV counseling and voluntary HIV testing for all pregnant women in the U.S. There is already evidence that use of this therapy is reducing the number of HIV-positive babies born in the U.S.

President Clinton's “America Reads” Challenge

August 27, 1996

President Clinton's “America Reads” Challenge

PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

		<u>Page</u>
I.	1-Page New Initiative Summary	1
II.	4-Page Detailed Background on the New Initiative	2-5

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S "AMERICA READS" CHALLENGE

August 27, 1996

"AMERICA READS" CHALLENGE: TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY CHILD IS LITERATE BY THE END OF THE 3RD GRADE. *Parental Responsibility and Community Responsibility will be the Backbone of this Effort.* Only with a strong, nationwide effort by all Americans -- parents, community groups, religious organizations, teachers, principals, and private sector leadership, will America be able to mobilize the national effort necessary to make sure that all children are reading independently by the end of the 3rd grade. To help catalyze these efforts, and help community leaders, parents, and educators across the country, the President is proposing the \$2.75 billion "America Reads" Challenge.

Four Main Components of President Clinton's "America Reads" Challenge:

- I. Parents As First Teachers Challenge Grants.** The President proposes a *Parents as First Teachers Challenge Grant Fund* that invests in success by supporting effective, proven efforts that provide assistance to parents who want to help their children become successful readers by the end of 3rd grade. \$300 million in grants will be available over 5 years to national and regional groups as well as local communities and organizations. (\$300 million FY98 - FY2002).
- II. America's Reading Corps: Individualized After-School and Summer Tutoring for More Than 3 Million Children in Grades K-3 Who Want and Need It.** The President's proposal provides \$2.450 billion to support tutoring efforts. \$1.45 billion in net new investments over 5 years, in addition to \$1 billion already specified in President Clinton's balanced budget for National Service participants will be directed specifically to this reading challenge.
 - **30,000 Reading Specialists and Volunteer Coordinators would be funded to help Communities provide extra reading help before and after school and during the summers for the 20,000 schools with the greatest need -- reaching more than 3 million children.**
 - **National Goal To Mobilize 1 Million Tutors.** Study after study shows that individualized tutoring can work to raise reading level -- particularly when combined with effective in-school teaching and family involvement. Only if all sectors of our national community rise to the challenge will we be able to mobilize the 1 million tutors needed to provide individual attention to all young children who need reading assistance. With the help of 30,000 coordinators and reading specialists, along with college work study students and RSVP Senior Volunteers, the President hopes to move the nation towards this goals.
 - **Building on the Success of Thousands of Community Programs and National Service.** This initiative builds on the success of community tutoring programs and National Service programs like AmeriCorps and RSVP Senior volunteers in developing and coordinating effective tutoring program. 11,000 AmeriCorps members will work in local communities as tutor coordinators to assist communities in their locally-designed reading efforts.
- III. Providing 1 Million 3 and 4 year-olds with a Head Start.** President Clinton's balanced budget includes a major expansion of Head Start so that it can reach 1 million pre-school children in 2002.
- IV. Challenge to Private Sector.** This national effort will only be successful if those in the private and non-profit sector return to the President's "America Reads" challenge. This new "America Reads" initiative builds on Clinton Administration efforts to work with the Private Sector in helping our children learn how to read, such as the "Partnership for Family Involvement in Education" and "Read*Write*Now."

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<i>Four Main Components of President Clinton's "America Reads" Challenge:</i>
I. Parents As First Teachers Challenge Grants
II. <i>America's Reading Corps: Individualized After-School and Summer Help for More Than 3 Million Children in Grades K-3 Who Want and Need It.</i>
III. Providing One Million 3 and 4 year olds with a Head Start.
IV. Challenge to Private Sector.

I. PARENTS AS FIRST TEACHERS CHALLENGE GRANTS: From their infants' earliest days of life, parents can play a major role as their child's first teacher by talking to them, reading to them, working with them on reading skills and providing a supportive environment for reading. To empower parents with information and assistance in teaching their children, the President proposes a *Parents as First Teachers Challenge Grant Fund* that invests in success by supporting effective, proven efforts that provide assistance to parents who want to help their children become successful readers by the end of 3rd grade. (\$300 Million, FY98-2002)

- **Two Types of Grant Winners:**

(1). National and Regional Networks to Share Information on Helping Children Read -- Spurring Activities to Support Parents. Many organizations such as the PTA, Urban League, ASPIRA, Girl Scouts, and the American Library Association are already working to support parents' efforts to help their children become successful readers. These groups and others like them have the capacity to develop national and regional networks to share information on how parents can help their children read better.

Criteria: Grants would be provided to develop such networks to applicants that:

- (1) Have a proven track record of working with parents of young children,
- (2) Can demonstrate the likelihood of substantial regional or national impact,
- (3) Show the cost-effectiveness of their proposal, and
- (4) Coordinate with the private sector and state and local programs that also provide support for parents.

In addition, efforts such as developing the best research about how children learn, developing high quality reading materials for young readers, and public television programs that help young children learn to read would be supported.

- 2). **Replicating and Expanding Successful Local Parent as Teacher Efforts:** Across the nation there are many local efforts, often run by non-profits, that have shown success in helping even the most educationally-disadvantaged parents be good first teachers to their children and help them to attain language skills while helping them with their reading. This portion of the challenge grant fund could go to any state, locality, community group, or non-profit that has a comprehensive plan to expand or replicate successful models -- such as the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) or the Parents as First Teachers (PAT) program in Missouri.

Criteria. Investing in proven success, the President's new initiative would support similar local efforts intended to help parents help their children learn to read by the end of third grade. Grants would be provided to applicants that:

- (1) Have a proven track record of working with parents on improving their children's reading; or
- (2) Plan to use a model shown to be effective.
- (3) Applicants must also demonstrate evidence of community support from the private sector, schools, and others for their effort; show the cost-effectiveness of their proposal; and coordinate with state and local programs that also provide support for parents.

II. **AMERICA'S READING CORPS: INDIVIDUALIZED AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMMER HELP FOR MORE THAN 3 MILLION CHILDREN IN GRADES K-3 WHO WANT AND NEED IT.**

The President's proposal provides \$2.450 billion to support volunteer tutoring efforts. \$1.425 billion in net new costs over 5 years along with \$1 billion already specified in President Clinton's balanced budget for National Service participants will support these tutoring efforts.

- **30,000 Specialists and Volunteer Coordinators.** 30,000 Reading Specialists and Volunteer Coordinators would be funded to help Communities provide extra reading help after school and during the summers for the 20,000 schools with the greatest need -- reaching more than 3 million children. Federal support will fund trained reading specialists and tutor coordinators to provide instruction, organize school and community-based reading programs, and recruit and train volunteers. (\$1.200 Billion)
- **National Goal To Mobilize 1 Million Tutors.** Study after study shows that individualized tutoring can work to raise reading levels -- particularly when combined with effective in-school teaching and family involvement. The President challenges communities to mobilize 1 million tutors to provide individualized attention to more than 3 million children who are behind in reading. Our nation's schools, libraries, religious organizations, colleges, and businesses all play a role in this. 30,000 volunteer coordinators and reading specialists, along with college work study students and RSVP Senior Volunteers, will help mobilize this effort.
- **Building on the Success of National Service.** This initiative builds on the success of National Service programs like AmeriCorps and RSVP Senior volunteers in developing and coordinating effective tutoring program. It would make available approximately 11,000 AmeriCorps members to work in local communities as tutor coordinators to assist communities in their locally-designed reading efforts. In addition, thousands more Foster Grandparents, RSVP Senior Volunteers and national service college participants would be available to assist in coordinating tutoring programs or provide individualized tutoring. (\$1 Billion)

- **Process and Criteria:** Funds would be provided to States based on their population of children aged 5-8 as well as poverty. A portion of the funds would be provided the existing independent bi-partisan State Commissions of Community and National Service. States and the Commissions will work together to provide communities the resources to promote reading success by the end of 3rd grade.

Communities would have broad flexibility in how they design their programs, but they will have to demonstrate to the state that their efforts:

- (1) Target funding to communities and schools in which young students are furthest behind in reading;
- (2) Focus on providing individualized tutoring after school, weekend or in the summer through trained and supervised volunteers and other community resources;
- (3) Relate to the in-school reading program; and
- (4) Provide information to the public about their strategies for ensuring that children doing least well in reading would make progress.

Only Applicants with Strong Community Support Need Apply: The assistance of reading specialist and volunteer coordinators can provide critical help to communities that have decided they want to have a strong individualized tutoring efforts, and where parents and teachers and the private sector are willing and ready to participate. Only with such strong community involvement will awards be granted. States and communities must do their part by showing their commitment to enhancing their reading programs during the regular school day in support of universal literacy and providing the funding necessary to keep schools or other locations open after-school, weekends and summers for the tutoring program and transporting students to and from programs, when appropriate.

Communities will develop their tutoring efforts to best meet their local needs and concerns. It will be up to each community to determine for itself what sort of reading instruction and materials best meets the needs of its students and where the tutoring should take place -- at a school, a library, a community center or other location. While most tutoring will be done after-school and in the summers in order to extend rather than replace learning time, communities may conduct other kinds of reading programs where they can show a proven track record of success.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR RESULTS. Every two years the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) will measure the reading performance of 4th graders, showing the nation's and each state's progress toward meeting the challenge. States will publish their reading scores. Those that fail to show improvement in reading scores over time will be required to review and improve their reading programs, and, ultimately, would lose funding if progress is not made. (\$25 million)

III. PROVIDING ONE MILLION 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS WITH A HEAD START. Studies stress that literacy problems are best averted with the earliest intervention possible -- including pre-school. President Clinton's balanced budget includes a major expansion of Head Start so that it reaches 1 million pre-school children in 2002.

- **Head Start Works.** For more than 30 years, Head Start has been one of our nation's best investments in helping low-income parents be their children's first teacher, and in making sure that children start school ready to read and ready to learn. Head Start provides three and four year old children cognitive, social and language development, comprehensive health services and healthy meals and nutrition. Head Start also offers parents seeking to improve their circumstances and their children's chances of success parenting skills, support, education and training. *A Packard Foundation study released this year found that children exposed to early childhood education programs such as Head Start have higher reading scores, are less likely to be placed into expensive special education classes, and are more likely to graduate from high school.*
- **Parent Involvement is the Bedrock of Head Start.** Last year more than 800,000 Head Start parents volunteered in their local program. Head Start staff work closely with parents to help them build their skills, not only to become better parents but also to become contributing members of their community. Parents are taught the importance of reading to their children. When parents have difficulty reading, Head Start programs work with them to improve their literacy skills.
- **Family Literacy is a New Priority in Head Start.** Under new standards developed by the Clinton Administration, family literacy is a new priority in Head Start -- parents will be encouraged even more to understand what happens in the classroom and to recreate this learning environment at home.
- **America's Child Literacy Challenge Builds on the Strong Foundation Provided by Head Start.** Through the Head Start Transition Initiative, Head Start programs will dedicate at least one part-time staff person to work with local school systems, parents, child care providers and other members of the community to make sure children successfully make the transition from Head Start to public school.

IV. CHALLENGE TO PRIVATE SECTOR. This national effort will only be successful if those in the private and non-profit sector return to the President's "America Reads" challenge.

- **The new "America Reads" initiative builds on Clinton Administration efforts to work with the Private Sector.**
 - **Partnership for Family Involvement in Education.** Over 700 family, school, community, employer and religious have joined with Secretary of Education Richard Riley to create the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education. Religious organizations representing 75% of all religiously affiliated Americans and businesses ranging from giants like John Hancock, IBM, Marriott and the U.S. Army to small businesses and local chambers of commerce. The Partnership's activities include strengthening at-home activities that encourage reading, promoting and adopting family-friendly business practices such as providing leave time to attend parent-teacher conferences and volunteer in schools, and supporting learning communities through organized before- and after-school and summer activities.
 - **Read*Write*Now.** About 40 businesses, reading associations, community and religious groups have banded together with Secretary of Education Richard Riley to create *Read*Write*Now* which provided summer reading partners and materials for almost one million children. And, a growing number of states and communities have started their own initiatives to promote children's reading success, including Texas, California, Charlotte, N.C., Spokane, WA, Rochester, NY, Orlando, FL, Boston, MA, Baltimore, MD, and New York, N.Y.