

MAY 20, 1997

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING
FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILY MAGAZINES

DATE: Wednesday, May 21, 1997
LOCATION: Blue Room/Grand Foyer
TIME: 3:55 p.m. Arrival
4 p.m. First Lady Briefing for the Magazines
4:30 p.m. Reception in Grand Foyer

FROM: MARIA ECHAVESTE

I. PURPOSE

You will conclude a day of briefings by top women in the Administration, Mrs. Gore and the Vice President for 32 editors and writers for women, children and family magazines. Following your briefing, you will host a reception for the magazine representatives and Administration women. The suggested topics for your focus are early childhood, child care and children's health. The day is designed to: (1) amplify the Administration's great accomplishments for women and families; and (2) showcase the star line-up of women serving in the Administration. The circulation of the magazines represented in the room will be more than 52 million.

II. BACKGROUND

The day for the magazine representatives will begin at 9 a.m. and most of the briefings will be either in the Indian Treaty Room or in Room 472. Each briefer will take Q's & A's, except the Vice President. The Vice President will be announcing in Room 450 that the U.S. Postal Service will be distributing more than 200 million postage stamp booklets with the National Domestic Violence Hotline number (1-800-799-SAFE) printed on the covers. Mrs. Gore will brief on sudden infant death syndrome.

Other briefers for the day will be:

Maria Echaveste, on the President's Apparel Industry Partnership; Madeleine Albright, an update on follow-up to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women; Donna Shalala, the Administration's initiatives to fight breast cancer and Girl Power; Carol Browner, environmental health threats to children and families; Janet Reno, the President's youth violence initiative; Alexis Herman, the Administration's initiatives to balance work and family; Judith Winston, Title IX; Carol Rasco, America Reads; Aida Alvarez, creating opportunities for women in business and SBA's role in Welfare to Work.

III. PARTICIPANTS

See attached list of magazine representtives and the schedule for the day, noting the participating Administration officials.

IV. PRESS PLAN

On the record for the magazine representatives.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

See attached schedule for the day.

VI. REMARKS

Talking points to be provided.

Attachments:

Complete Schedule for White House Briefing for Women, Children and Family Magazines

Confirmed list of magazine representatives

Domestic Violence Hotline Announcement background

White House Briefing for Women's Magazines
Wednesday, May 21, 1997
9: 30 a.m. to 5:30 a.m.
Please Arrive by 9 a.m.

Welcome/Coffee

9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Indian Treaty Room, Room 474

Old Executive Office Building

The President's Apparel Industry Partnership

9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Room 472

Old Executive Office Building

**Maria Echaveste, Assistant to the President and
Director of Public Liaison**

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright

10 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Room 472

Old Executive Office Building

Women's Health/Breast Cancer and Girl Power

10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Room 472

Old Executive Office Building

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala

Tipper Gore

10:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Room 472

Old Executive Office Building

20 Minute Break/Lunch

**Environmental Health Threats to Children and Families
Lunch**

11:20 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Room 474, Indian Treaty Room

Old Executive Office Building

EPA Administrator Carol Browner

Youth Violence

11:45 a.m. to 12:15 a.m.

Indian Treaty Room, Room 474

Old Executive Office Building

Attorney General Janet Reno

America Reads

Lunch

12:15 p.m. to 12:40

Indian Treaty Room, Room 474

Old Executive Office Building

**Carol Rasco, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Education
and Director of America Reads**

Vice President Al Gore

12:50 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Room 450

Old Executive Office Building

Labor Secretary Alexis Herman

1:35 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Room 472

Old Executive Office Building

Education/Title IX

2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Room 472

Old Executive Office Building

**Judith Winston, Department of Education General Counsel
and Acting Under Secretary**

Creating Opportunities for Women in Business/SBA's Role in Welfare Reform

2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Room 472

Old Executive Office Building

Small Business Administration Administrator Aida Alvarez

Break/Movement to East Wing

3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Mrs. Clinton

4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The White House

Blue Room

Reception

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The White House

The Grand Foyer

Guest List for White House Briefing for Women's Magazines
May 21, 1997

Susan Ungaro
Family Circle

Stephanie Abarbanel
Woman's Day

Janet Chan
Parenting

Susan Crandell
Ladies' Home Journal

Sally Koslow
McCall's

Kate White
Redbook

Elizabeth Crow
Mademoiselle

Rochelle Udell
Self

Mary Hickey
Glamour

Sally Lee
Fitness

Bonnie Fuller
Cosmopolitan

Donna Jackson
New Woman

Sarah Hutter
Woman's World

Linda Wells
Allure

Patricia Duarte
Latina

Pamela Abrams
Child

Meredith Berlin
Seventeen

Sarah Mahoney
Parents

Rachel Newman
Country Living
Healthy Living

Jerry Berrios
Latina Style

Roberta Myers
Mirabella

Elaina Richardson
Elle

Anna Wintour
Vogue

Judsen Culbreth
Working Mother

Stephanie Stokes Oliver
Heart and Soul

Alex Kennedy
Family Fun

Diane Salvatore
Good Housekeeping

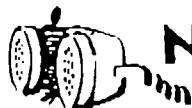
Barbara Harris
Shape Magazine

Robin Raskin
MA Family PC

Valerie Menard
Moderna

Michelle Andrews
SmartMoney

Monique Greenwood
Essence



National Domestic Violence Hotline

A Project of Texas Council on Family Violence

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

1-800-787-3224 (TDD)

Embargoed until 12:45pm
May 21, 1997

Contact: Sherry Ettleson, 202/223-9729 ext. 102
Cyndy Perkins, 512/453-8117

Postal Service Joins National Hotline to Stamp Out Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence Hotline Number To Go On 200 Million Books of Stamps

Washington, D.C. -- Victims of domestic violence will soon have access to help right in their purses, wallets or desks as Vice President Al Gore today announced a new campaign to put the toll-free National Domestic Violence Hotline Numbers (1-800-799-SAFE or 1-800-787-3224 (TDD)) on the inside covers of 200 million 32-cent stamp booklets. He was joined by Postmaster General Marvin T. Runyon, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK), and Ellen Rubenstein Fisher, the Director of the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

"With an estimated 1,300 women killed each year by their husbands, ex-husbands, or boyfriends, and three to four million women each year who silently endure abuse, it is vital that anyone who needs help can get it and get it easily," said Ellen Rubenstein Fisher, Executive Director of the National Domestic Violence Hotline. "With the Hotline phone number on 200 million books of stamps, millions of women will now know where to go to seek help to escape violent homes," added Fisher.

"Most domestic violence victims and concerned family and friends that call the Hotline have never before asked for help. Because of the efforts of the Postmaster and others, help will be as accessible as the nearest post office or grocery store," said Fisher. "This effort should inspire businesses, government agencies, and private organizations to publicize the Hotline number through their own marketing efforts and informational materials," added Fisher.

The Hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, toll-free from anywhere in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. One call to the Hotline at puts the caller in touch with staff who speak English and Spanish. Hotline staff also have access to translators in 139 languages.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline, established in early 1996 in Austin, Texas, answers approximately 8,000 calls per month. Hotline staff and volunteers provide victims and concerned family and friends with crisis intervention, information about domestic violence, and referrals to local shelters and other service providers. Since the Hotline opened 15 months ago, over 107,000 callers have been assisted.

The stamp-book campaign grew out of a bi-partisan effort led by Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) and Ted Stevens (R-AK) to have a postage stamp that focuses attention on the crisis of domestic violence and the 24-hour, toll-free Hotline available to victims. The Hotline receives federal funds that are matched with private funds from corporations, foundations, individuals and organizations.

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Family and Medical Leave Act: Know Your Rights

10

FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE



U.S. Department of Labor
Office of the Secretary
Women's Bureau
Washington, D.C. 20210

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300
4020

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR BRIEFING FOR WOMEN'S MAGAZINES
THE WHITE HOUSE
MAY 21, 1997

- You've heard today about the Clinton Administration's longstanding commitment to women, children and families. I'd like to talk briefly about an issue that I've spent a great amount of time working on and thinking about and then open this up for questions about the range of issues you've touched on today.
- **Early Childhood.** Researchers in recent years have found scientific evidence for what many parents have always suspected: time spent talking, singing, and reading to an infant helps a child develop emotionally and intellectually -- and literally helps a baby's brain grow. Last month, the President and I held a conference at the White House to give the leading experts in the field of early childhood development the opportunity to share their discoveries and to put this body of knowledge at the service of our families, child care workers, teachers, doctors and other adults who wield tremendous influence in our children's lives.
- **Health Care.** One of the issues discussed at the conference was the importance of health care to a child's ability to learn, grow, and live up to his or her full potential. We can't expect a child to enjoy Goodnight Moon or learn to count if he or she is distracted by a nagging cough or other ailment that has been left untreated because the child's parents cannot afford health insurance. The statistics are shameful. The United States is the only industrialized nation that does not extend health coverage to all of its children. Nearly 10 million American children have no health insurance, and 20 million were without insurance for at least one month over a two year period. In the negotiations over the balanced budget, the President has made sure that as many as five million children currently living without health insurance can get the coverage they deserve. And this spring, several bills are making their way through Congress that build on state efforts to cover uninsured children and make it easier for working parents to buy health insurance for their children. The time is long overdue for America to address what I believe is an economic, social and moral crisis.
- **Child Care.** Another major issue addressed at the conference was child care. More and more mothers today return to work before their infants' first birthdays. Child care is a fact of life, and many parents worry about finding affordable, high quality care. And the demand for quality child care will only increase as more and more people leave welfare for work. That's why the President fought so hard to add \$4 billion for child care to the welfare bill. This fall, the President will convene a conference at the White House to continue our discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of child care in this country and to find ways to translate that discussion into action.

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Old Executive Office Building

Overview of Administration's Priorities

9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Room 472
Old Executive Office Building
**Maria Echaveste, Assistant to the President and
Director of Public Liaison**

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright

10 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
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20 Minute Break

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Domestic Violence/Juvenile Justice

Lunch

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The White House

State Dining Room

**Guest List for White House Briefing for Women's Magazines
May 21, 1997**

Susan Ungaro
Family Circle

Stephanie Abarbanel
Woman's Day

Janet Chan
Parenting

Susan Crandell
Ladies' Home Journal

Sally Koslow
McCall's

Kate White
Redbook

Elizabeth Crow
Mademoiselle

Rochelle Udell
Self

Mary Hickey
Glamour

Sally Lee
Fitness

Bonnie Fuller
Cosmopolitan

Donna Jackson
New Woman

Sarah Hutter
Woman's World

Linda Wells
Allure

Patricia Duarte
Latina

Pamela Abrams
Child

Meredith Berlin
Seventeen

Sarah Mahoney
Parents

Rachel Newman
Country Living
Healthy Living

Jerry Berrios
Latina Style

Roberta Myers
Mirabella

Elaina Richardson
Elle

Anna Wintour
Vogue

Judsen Culbreth
Working Mother

Stephanie Stokes Oliver
Heart and Soul

Alex Kennedy
Family Fun

Diane Salvatore
Good Housekeeping

Barbara Harris
Shape Magazine

Robin Raskin
MA Family PC

Valerie Menard
Moderna

Michelle Andrews
SmartMoney

Monique Greenwood
Essence

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

April 14, 1997

TODAY, PRESIDENT CLINTON WELCOMES TO THE WHITE HOUSE THE MEMBERS OF THE APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP TO ANNOUNCE A NEW AGREEMENT. Leaders from the footwear and apparel industry, labor, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and consumer groups have found common ground, agreeing to a Code of Conduct and independent monitoring systems that will assure Americans that the clothes and shoes they buy are made under decent and humane working conditions. The Partnership also agreed to recruit others in the industry and to develop an independent association to assure compliance and inform consumers about the Code and which companies comply.

THIS AGREEMENT FOLLOWS FROM WHITE HOUSE MEETING LAST YEAR. On August 2, 1996, the President and Vice President met with these parties to discuss the problem of sweatshops, consumer concerns, and the need to join together to address these issues. The parties formed a voluntary, industry-driven partnership that proposed to report back to the President its recommendations for action.

- Participants in the Partnership include: Liz Claiborne; Nike; Phillips-Van Heusen; Reebok; L.L. Bean; Patagonia; Tweeds; Nicole Miller; Karen Kane; UNITE; the Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union; Business for Social Responsibility; the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility; the International Labor Rights Fund; Lawyers Committee for Human Rights; the National Consumers League; and the RFK Memorial Center for Human Rights.

THE PARTNERSHIP'S AGREEMENT IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND. The agreement contains the following components:

- ✓ **A Strong Workplace Code of Conduct** that companies will voluntarily adopt and require their contractors to adopt, which, among other things, includes:
 - Prohibitions against child labor, worker abuse or harassment, and discrimination;
 - The recognition of workers' rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining;
 - A minimum or prevailing industry wage, a maximum 60-hour workweek, and a cap on mandatory overtime; and
 - A safe and healthy working environment.
- ✓ **Independent External Monitors** to conduct reviews of company policies and practices and to verify that the company is in compliance with its obligations and commitments under the Code of Conduct. Companies will also maintain an internal monitoring system that outlines the obligations each company will undertake to ensure that the Code is enforced in its facilities and its contractors' facilities both domestically and internationally.
- ✓ **Commitment to Form an Association Over the Next Six Months** that will (1) recruit new member companies which also will abide by the Code and implement independent monitoring; (2) develop a reliable, independent means to provide for public confidence that the above obligations are being met; and (3) develop a mechanism or seal of approval informing consumers about which companies abide by the Code and monitoring.

DETAILS ON THE APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The Apparel Industry Partnership agreement contains the following:

- ✓ **A Strong Workplace Code of Conduct that individual companies will voluntarily adopt and require their contractors to adopt, which includes:**
 - The prohibition of employing any persons under the age of 15 (unless permitted by the country of manufacture to be 14);
 - Prohibitions against any worker abuse or harassment and discrimination;
 - The recognition and respect for workers' rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining;
 - The requirement that employers pay at least the minimum or prevailing industry wage, whichever is higher, and provide mandated benefits;
 - The requirement that workers be provided with a safe and healthy working environment;
 - A cap on mandatory overtime to 12 hours per week and the regular work week of the country (or 48 hours, whichever is less); and requiring a day off in every seven day period; and
 - The requirement that overtime be compensated for at the premium rate required in the country or at least equal to their regular hourly compensation.
- ✓ **Independent External Monitors who will conduct independent reviews of participating company policies and practices, provide company employees and contractors' employees with secure communication channels to report concerns of noncompliance; audit production records and practices to ensure compliance; conduct employee interviews and site visits; and verify that the company is in compliance with its obligations and commitments under the Code of Conduct.**
- ✓ **An Internal Monitoring System that outlines the obligations each company will undertake to ensure that the Code of Conduct is enforced in its facilities and its contractors' facilities both domestically and internationally.**
- ✓ **A Commitment to Form an Association over the next six months that will:**
 - Recruit new member companies which also will abide by the Code and implement independent monitoring;
 - Develop a reliable, independent means to provide for public confidence that the above obligations are being met; and
 - Develop a mechanism or seal of approval informing consumers about which companies abide by the Code and monitoring.

Fact Sheet

Highlights of State Department Activities To Promote the Advancement of Women

"We cannot advance our ideals and interests unless we focus more attention on the fundamental human rights and basic needs of women and girls. . . . If women can live and work as full and equal partners in any society, then families will flourish. And when they do, communities and nations will thrive. . . . We are putting our efforts to protect and advance women's rights where they belong—in the mainstream of American foreign policy."

—President Bill Clinton
December 10, 1996

"Advancing the status of women is not only a moral imperative; it is being actively integrated into the foreign policy of the United States. It is our mission. It is the right thing to do, and, frankly, it is the smart thing to do."

—Secretary of State Madeleine Albright
March 12, 1997

Promoting the advancement of women is an important element of U.S. foreign policy which complements the broader strategic, diplomatic, and economic interests of the United States. The State Department, in partnership with the community of non-governmental organizations, supports the efforts of the global community to protect and promote women's human rights and improve the lives of women and girls.

Integration into the Foreign Policy Process

Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues. The position of Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues was created by Congress to promote the human rights of women within American foreign policy. Under the auspices of the Office of the Under Secretary for Global Affairs, the Senior Coordinator's mandate is to integrate issues affecting the lives of

women—from violence against women and trafficking of women and girls to women's participation in democracy-building and sustainable economic development—into the everyday work of the State Department's bureaus and embassies and into the fabric of foreign policymaking.

Human Rights Report. The State Department's annual country report on human rights practices around the world now chronicles, documents and integrates issues of women's human rights. Through descriptions of issues ranging from the treatment of women in the judicial process to women's access to the economic and political levers of their societies, these human rights reports offer the most comprehensive guide to violations of the human rights of women worldwide.

Progress Reports. The State Department publishes a monthly report on the progress made since the 1995 UN World Conference on Women held in Beijing. This report highlights the numerous positive activities of both

government and non-governmental organizations in the promotion and advancement of women.

Multilateral Efforts. The United States has taken the lead in the UN Commission on Human Rights and in the UN Commission on the Status of Women to integrate the human rights and advancement of women into the mainstream of UN activities. The United States has seen that gender-specific language is included in a broad range of resolutions of the Commissions.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The State Department strongly supports the ratification of this women's rights treaty and is working with Congress for ratification.

For more information, contact:
Theresa Loan, Senior Coordinator
for International Women's Issues
Tel: (202) 647-5440
Fax: (202) 647-5337



NGO-State Department Collaboration. Throughout the policymaking process—from embassies to Foreign Service officers to high-level State Department diplomats—the United States continuously engages in a dialogue with non-governmental organizations committed to improving the lives of women and girls.

Afghanistan. When the Taliban took over the capital, Kabul, in the fall of 1996, they instituted strict policies restricting women's employment and girls' education. The State Department denounced these actions in several public statements and in contacts with Taliban representatives. Today, the Department continues to take the lead in raising these issues in international fora, such as in UN meetings and conferences, and also directly with the Taliban.

Embassy Support for Grassroots Efforts

The on-the-ground work of U.S. embassies overseas provides a vital bridge between policymakers and the world's women. The United States supports efforts to promote the advancement of women through various embassy activities. A combination of funding and information exchange form the foundation of a process which elevates women's issues by expressing U.S. support for programs geared to the empowerment of women.

Encouraging Dialogue on the Issues. Embassies are raising key women's rights issues with host governments, women's groups, and non-governmental organizations and are devising means to energize U.S. Government efforts around the world to promote the empowerment of women.

Funding Grassroots Projects. Many embassies use discretionary funds to support grassroots efforts for the advancement of women. For example, in 1996, the U.S. Embassy in Namibia devoted its 1996 democracy and human rights discretionary funds to promote women's issues, funding six community-based programs on sexual violence against women and girls.

Political Participation And Empowerment

The promotion of democracy is a U.S. foreign policy goal. The full participation and representation of women in the political lives of their countries builds a foundation for sustainable democracy. The State Department is supporting programs aimed at politically empowering women to become involved in all aspects of political life, including voting, running for office, and advocating for political change. For example, the State Department recently provided funding to a non-governmental organization which provides women in Asia with the training and skills to run for political office.

Coordinating Humanitarian Assistance

The United States has been a leading advocate for focusing attention on the special needs of refugee women. The State Department is increasingly gearing its humanitarian assistance programs to provide women with needed services, provisions, and skills and coordinates these programs with both non-governmental and international institutions.

Funding Programs. The State Department funded \$6 million for women's initiatives in Bosnia and Rwanda in order to facilitate the rebuilding of democracy and civil society in these two countries. Furthermore, the State Department funds non-governmental programs designed to provide women refugees with services, including reproductive health services. The Bureau of Population, Migration, and Refugees supported education programs to target Afghan girls in Pakistan who otherwise would not have had equal access to education with boys.

Coordination With the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The United States has worked closely with the UNHCR to establish policies and guidelines for protection and assistance to refugee women to meet their special needs—protection against sexual and physical abuse, exploitation, and discrimination in the delivery of humanitarian

supplies and services. The State Department has funded and provided a reproductive health coordinator at the UNHCR's headquarters who manages the field testing of newly established guidelines for addressing reproductive health considerations of refugees. Additionally, the United States participates in the UNHCR Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health for refugees, which is an important coordinating mechanism.

Violence Against Women

Violence against women, in all its forms, is the most widespread and entrenched violation of women's fundamental human rights. Violence imposes high societal costs which impedes the true and sustainable development of democratic societies throughout the world. The State Department is taking an active role, in collaboration with communities and governments, in promoting the eradication of violence against women worldwide through the following type of activities.

Legal Guarantees. The United States has provided model legislation to countries overseas to help them draft comprehensive laws on violence against women, including domestic violence. Based on such model legislation, governments are instituting concrete legal protection for women.

Funding Programs. The State Department and its overseas embassies fund a variety of non-governmental and community programs on violence against women. These programs range from the establishment of shelters and hotlines to assist women victims of violence to training for police to public education efforts.

Rape as a War Crime. The United States is working with the Chief Prosecutor of the War Crimes Tribunal for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia to encourage the vigorous prosecution of rape as a war crime. The United States is providing funding for programs to train Tribunal prosecutors and investigators on issues of sexual violence.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). U.S. policy is to work in collaboration with community organizations and

governments that are committed to eradicating this harmful practice. The State Department chairs an intergovernmental agency working group on female genital mutilation. This group meets regularly to discuss strategy and policy. The group includes representatives from the Departments of the Treasury and Health and Human Services, USAID, and USIA who are addressing U.S. legislation on FGM. The State Department develops country profiles on the practice of FGM for asylum adjudicators and also funds non-governmental activity aimed at alleviating the health complications that arise from the practice.

UN Special Rapporteur. The United States strongly supported the creation of a UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. The United

States is working at the current session of the UN Commission on Human Rights to renew the rapporteur's mandate.

Trafficking in Women and Girls.

The State Department—including the bureaus of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement; Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; and Population Refugees, and Migration—is working to combat the illegal trafficking of women and girls. The United States is currently involved in numerous bilateral, regional, and multilateral initiatives to protect the rights of all migrants and to help deter trafficking in human beings. For instance, in the areas of migration and enforcement, as part of an ongoing anti-crime training and technical assistance program, the State Department is hosting a joint U.S.-Russia seminar on the criminal justice issues involved in the commercial sexual exploitation of women and children.

President's Interagency Council on Women

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is chair of the President's Interagency Council on Women. The First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is Honorary Chair of the Council, and the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues serves as Director. The President's Council is the intergovernmental body charged with U.S. implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, including the U.S. commitments announced at the Conference. The Council also develops related initiatives to further women's progress and engages in outreach and public education to support implementation of the Conference agreements. The Council includes high-level representatives from executive branch agencies. ■



The President's Interagency Council on Women

U.S. Government Follow-up to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women

March 1997 Update on Key Initiatives

This is one of an occasional series of updates providing highlights of U.S. follow-up to commitments made at the 1995 UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and others made since. It also contains information on new initiatives. The Council will be issuing a comprehensive report of government follow-up to Beijing in the next few months.

PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN:

On August 26, 1995, prior to the opening of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, President Clinton announced the formation of an interagency women's council. This inter-governmental body was charged with implementing the U.S. commitments announced at the Beijing Conference and with developing related initiatives to further women's progress. The President said:

“The [Women's] Conference is going to talk about education and domestic violence and grass-roots economics, employment, health care, political participation ... And we don't intend to walk away from it when it's over. I'm going to establish an interagency council to make sure that all the effort and the good ideas actually get implemented when we come back home.”

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton serves as Honorary Chair of the Council. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala chaired the Council from its inception through March 1997. On March 8, 1997, the President announced that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had agreed to serve as Chair of the Council, following the strong leadership provided by Secretary Shalala. The Council includes high-level representatives from Executive Branch agencies.

On September 28, 1996, the Council sponsored a national conference via satellite to report on progress made, share what's working in local communities, and to hear from participants about their ideas to improve the lives of women and their families.

WOMEN IN THE PAID LABOR FORCE:

Working Women Count Honor Roll. The Department of Labor Women's Bureau's Honor Roll campaign resulted in over 1300 pledges from nonprofit organizations, businesses, elected government officials, labor unions, media organizations, and on-line computer services. The Final Report will be published in 1997 identifying private and public employment policies benefiting women in the areas of valuing women and women's work, balancing work and family, and fair pay (with emphasis on fair pay).

Wage Enforcement Initiatives. The Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division will work to increase compliance in 1997 in: (1) the garment industry; (2) agriculture; and (3) nursing home industry. Large numbers of women are employed in these low-wage industries where the most vulnerable people and worst violations are found. The initiatives involve a multi-pronged strategy of enforcement, education/outreach, and recognition to boost compliance rates.

Retirement Savings Education Campaign. "Save! Your Retirement Clock is Ticking," the Labor Department's retirement savings campaign, launched in 1996 in coalition with over 150 organizations, signed an agreement with the National Council of Negro Women to provide grassroots assistance and information to NCNW centers around the country and conduct future workshops. The campaign has distributed more than 2 million information booklets, developed an Internet web site (<http://www.asec.org>); sponsored a teleconference with TIAA-CREF, a coalition partner, on basic retirement planning issues; and is launching a national media campaign tailored to reach women about pensions.

Enforcement Effort to End Gender Discrimination in Compensation. The Labor Department will focus efforts at every level of the corporate ladder of Federal contractors and subcontractors. Between now and the year 2000 it will use women and men in a two-year testers initiative to determine if similarly qualified women and men are treated differently in interviewing and hiring.

Working Women's Rights. The Women's Bureau's "Don't Work in the Dark Campaign" informs working women about their legal rights, providing information on sexual harassment, family and medical leave, pregnancy discrimination, and wage, age and disability discrimination. In 1997 it will publish a major report on downsizing, analyzing the effects on employed women of downsizing, business mergers in an internationally competitive environment, and the labor force entrance of former welfare recipients. The new **Fair Pay Clearinghouse** provides publications and includes a computerized database of information on: wages and occupations, resource organizations, employer profiles, and state fair pay laws. The Internet site is (<http://www.dol.gov/dol/wb>).

UNWAGED WORK:

The Departments of Labor and Commerce have begun consultations on the construction of reliable estimates of unwaged work, exploring the applicability of information used by statistical agencies in other countries and how to best utilize U.S. expertise on time use studies. Cognitive research on time-use diaries is underway by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as is a limited pilot time-use survey to be conducted in 1997. The BLS also is developing a framework for carrying out future research on the output method of measuring non-market work. An interagency group has developed detailed descriptions of conference paper topic areas for a proposed Fall 1997 conference of experts on estimating the value of nonmarket work in order to add to the body of information that U.S. statistical agencies would need.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP:

Presidential Awards Program. The President through the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, established the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development to honor outstanding efforts in the U.S. The first Awards were presented in January, 1997 at a White House ceremony. Awards were made to different types of programs representing the broad diversity of the field of microenterprise development. Best practices from the winning programs are being disseminated.

Information on Women's Business Ownership. The Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise and the National Women's Business Council's newsletter, "The Partnership," provides information on Federal programs. The World Wide Web home page of the Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership (<http://www.sba.womeninb>) provides on-line access to opportunities. The Interagency Committee developed a Procurement Pilot Project for Women, in conjunction with SBA's Office of Government Contracting. SBA will hold training seminars for women on procurement at its district offices in the next few years.

Women's Business Ownership. The SBA's five year plan goals are: improving access to capital; enhancing education, counseling, and information; and serving as a strong advocate, particularly by providing procurement and research opportunities.

Export Assistance. The International Trade Administration is conducting an outreach effort to women's business organizations to inform them of the export assistance services offered by the Department of Commerce and to encourage members of the organizations to become active exporters.

Trade Missions. The Department of Commerce's new Women in Trade Business Development Missions are working to ensure that until women-owned businesses are represented on high-level trade missions.

Rural Women. The Department of Agriculture is expanding its outreach to women to participate in the agricultural economy. Programs such as the investment program in the Agricultural Marketing Service and commodity purchases for USDA-administered domestic and international food programs are engaging in outreach to women entrepreneurs in banking and commodity marketing. USDA is also increasing participation by women farmers/ranchers in its Small Farmer/Rancher Outreach Training and Technical Assistance Program, which is designed to improve farm incomes through better farm management and financial analysis skills.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

Implementation of the Violence Against Women Act. President Clinton established the Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice to lead a comprehensive effort to fight domestic and other forms of violence by combining tough Federal laws with state and local assistance in law enforcement, victim assistance, prosecutions and crime prevention. Initiatives include:

- The National Domestic Violence Hotline nationwide, 24-hour, toll-free number (1-800-799-SAFE or 1-800-787-3224 [TDD]).
- Under the S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women grant program, each state and territory has received \$426,000 in grant funding to assist police, prosecutors, and victim service providers in combating domestic violence and sexual assault. Grants of \$75,000 each went to 14 Indian tribes. By September, 1996, additional awards amounting to \$130 million had gone to all but seven states and territories.
- An interim rule published by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in May 1996 allows battered spouses and children of citizens or legal permanent residents to self-petition to become legal permanent residents themselves. This renders it unnecessary for family members eligible for permanent residency to rely on an abuser to remain in the U.S.
- Department of Health and Human Services programs under the Violence Against Women Act include grants for battered women's shelters; education and prevention grants to reduce sexual assault against women; coordinated community responses to prevent intimate partner violence; and grants to develop educational model curricula..

Spouse Abuse. The Department of Defense hosted its first conference on spouse abuse in July, 1996 focusing on prevention, intervention and research findings from DOD's study of spouse abuse. A second conference in February, 1997 reviewed current DOD policy and approaches to providing treatment when abuse occurs.

DNA Research for Paternity Determination and Rapist Identification. The Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology is conducting research in DNA standards and measurement to ensure accurate DNA measurements for use by the judicial system and law enforcement.

Female Genital Mutilation:

- As part of a priority objective to reduce violence against women, the State Department's Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues has established an inter-governmental working group on female genital mutilation including representatives from the Departments of Health and Human Services and Treasury, the US Information Agency and US Agency for International Development. U.S. policy is to work in collaboration with community organizations and governments who are committed to addressing the harmful health effects this practice.
- In June 1996, the Board of Immigration Appeals, with the urging of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, issued a precedent-setting decision that female genital mutilation may be a basis for asylum. Subject to the BIA's ruling, the INS will recognize that certain potential victims of FGM may establish eligibility for asylum and withholding of deportation.
- HHS is conducting outreach to affected communities within the U.S. to educate the public about health issues associated with FGM.
- Effective April 1997, the performance of FGM in the U.S. on girls under the age of 18 is illegal.

Guidance on Student Sexual Harassment. In August 1996, the Department of Education issued draft guidance for students titled "Sexual Harassment Guidance: Peer Sexual Harassment." Draft policy guidance is in preparation addressing issues related to sexual harassment of students by teachers and other school employees.

Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence. To address the alarming percentage of homicides as the leading cause of death on the job for women, the Department of Labor released "Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Health Care and Social Service Workers" last March. It has released draft guidelines for preventing workplace violence in the night retail industry. The guidelines are scheduled to be finalized in FY 1997. This is a voluntary incentive program, but where adopted it will have a high impact for the occupational safety and health of women in this industry.

Databases. Under the National Stalker and Domestic Violence Reduction Program, the Justice Department is awarding \$1.5 million to states for improving the processes for entering data on stalking and domestic violence into local, state and national crime information databases.

TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN:

Child Prostitution:

- The Department of Defense has issued programmatic steps for DOD training programs and requires Military Services to carry out a program that underscores the Department's commitment to combating the child prostitution industry and ensuring that no DOD personnel knowingly or unknowingly support such activity.
- In 1997, the Department of Labor's International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB) expects to provide support for two innovative programs which assist young girls at risk of being lured into prostitution. Both programs will enlist the support of a wide range of actors to combat child prostitution -- NGOs, teachers, community organizations, and local, regional and national government officials.
- The U.S. delegation to the World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children in Stockholm in August, 1996, included representatives from the Departments of State, Labor, Justice, Defense and the President's Interagency Council on Women. The delegation held productive meetings with American NGOs and is continuing to meet as a working group in Washington to explore ways to develop policy and to coordinate on these issues. It met again with the NGO community in November.
- The U.S. is currently involved in numerous bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives to protect the rights of all migrants and to help deter trafficking in persons. In the areas of migration and enforcement, for instance, as part of an ongoing anti-crime training and technical assistance program, the State Department is hosting a joint US-Russia seminar on the judicial issues involved in the trafficking of women and children.

HEALTH:

The Department of Health and Human Services has made improving women's health a top priority, taking a comprehensive, science-based approach to address longstanding inequities. HHS has established women's health coordinators in its agencies and regional offices; created the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health; and is establishing the National Women's Health Information Center. Key HHS initiatives include:

Breast Cancer:

- The National Action Plan on Breast Cancer is a coordinated national strategy to combat breast cancer through public/private partnerships. Projects have been developed to improve information dissemination, increase women's participation in clinical trials, investigate the causes of breast cancer, and improve consumer involvement in policy, research and services.
- Increased funding for research and programs from \$90 million in 1990 to over \$500 million in 1996.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program offers nationwide free or low-cost mammography screening to low-income elderly and minority women.
- The Food and Drug Administration, under the Mammography Quality Standards Act, now certifies all mammography machines in the U.S. for effectiveness.
- HHS-supported research led to the isolation of BRCA1, a gene linked to breast cancer in 5 to 10% of cases.
- HHS is working with other Federal agencies, including NASA, the Defense Department and the CIA, as well as private companies, to adapt high-tech imaging technology to improve the early detection of cancer in women.

HIV/AIDS:

- HHS has made a long-term, \$100 million commitment to research and development of topical microbicides to help women protect themselves against HIV infection. Other research includes breast feeding associated with HIV transmission; women and infants transmission study AIDS related cancers and adolescent HIV research.
- Physicians are being urged to counsel all pregnant women on the benefit of HIV testing. An informational campaign is informing pregnant HIV infected women and health care providers of the risks and benefits of ZDV (AZT) therapy.

Reproductive Health:

- **Family Planning Information and Access.** HHS supports the provision of reproductive health and family planning services to nearly 5 million people per year through the Title X program. Services include medical care related to contraception, infertility, STDs and HIV, as well as general reproductive health care and education, counseling and referral services. The program will supplement existing community-based programs to develop effective approaches for providing family planning education and services to males.
- **Teen Pregnancy.** In 1997, HHS launched its National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy -- a comprehensive plan to prevent teen pregnancies and encourage adolescents to remain abstinent. Two HHS supported programs are the Community Coalition Partnership Program for the Prevention of Teen Pregnancy and the Adolescent Family Life Program. New funding for these programs in FY 1997 will help 13 community coalition partnerships to implement their actions plans and enable communities to develop and implement about 100 abstinence-based education and demonstration projects throughout the country.
- **RU-486.** The Food and Drug Administration determined that submitted clinical data demonstrate the safety and efficacy of mifepristone -- in combination with misoprostol when used under close medical supervision -- for the termination of early pregnancy. The FDA is requiring additional data before a final approval decision.

Prevention of Nicotine Addiction Among Children and Teens. The regulations are in place to restrict the sale and distribution of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco to protect children and adolescents. These regulations include requiring age verification by photo ID by anyone under the age of 27; banning vending machines and self-service displays except in "adult" facilities where persons under 18 are not allowed; banning free samples; prohibiting outdoor advertising within 1,000 feet of schools and public playgrounds; permitting black and white text only in advertising publications with significant youth readership, meaning more than 15 percent or more than 2 million readers under 18; prohibiting sale and distribution of non-tobacco items, such as products like caps; limiting sponsorships of sporting and other events to the corporate name.

Clinical Research Trials. HHS has a continuing commitment to increasing research on women's health issues and the requirement that women be included in clinical research trials. Special initiatives include trials of hormone replacement therapy to reduce heart disease risk factors in postmenopausal women; calcium supplementation; trials of vitamin E, beta-carotene, and aspirin for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease in women. Sometimes, the topic of the study is of such relevance that the patient population will consist primarily or entirely of women, such as studies of diet, nutrition and obesity in African American women, treatment strategies for osteoporosis, effects of exercise on pregnancy, studies of premenstrual syndrome, and the effect of Norplant on risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

EDUCATION:

At-risk Women and Girls. The Department of Education is committed to these future initiatives for women and girls at risk of failure in obtaining and/or completing their education and employment training: Education and career awareness programs and opportunities; counseling and advising programs in prevention and treatment of alcohol and substance abuse, dealing with peer pressure, self-esteem; mentoring, reducing teen pregnancy and high school dropout rates.

Gender Equity:

- The Department of Education will support research on alternative school structures and their relationship to student achievement, and will continue to learn more about the nature and causes of gender inequities. It will continue to support the creation of gender-fair curricula materials and teaching techniques.
- The recently instituted Gender Equity Expert Panel will designate, disseminate and publicize promising and exemplary products, programs, and practices.

Nurturing a New Generation of Women Leaders:

- The Department of Education will establish a **Coalition on Women's Leadership** to encourage policies and practices that increase leadership positions for women. The coalition will foster collaboration among federal and state agencies, educational

institutions, including schools of business and public administration, education associations, and other stakeholders with involvement in implementing programs in women's leadership training and professional development.

- The Department of Education and the Social Security Administration are co-sponsoring an **International Leadership Forum for Women with Disabilities** in June 1997 in Washington. The forum will address overcoming obstacles of employment, education and training, adequate health care and other issues, and will develop leadership skills. More than 300 women with disabilities from 90 countries are expected to participate.

Science Literacy. The Department of the Interior's Women's Council has established a pilot project for primary and secondary school students aimed at science literacy and natural resource management careers. The project will attach an educational component to existing initiatives, with specifics determined by local program managers, schools and communities.

HOUSING:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is working through the National Partners in Homeownership, an unprecedented public/private partnership to dramatically increase homeownership opportunity. In June 1996, the Partnership launched the Homeownership for Women (HOW) initiative. In March, 1997 it held a homeownership counseling training conference by satellite broadcast across the country that included a discussion of new and innovative ways to reach women in the homebuying process. HUD provided \$250,000 in start-up funds to design education and counseling programs for potential female homebuyers. HOW will

- Expand its toll-free line (1-888-HOME-4US) to provide information about homeownership opportunities for women;
- Create education and counseling programs, booklets, videos, and public service advertising for women homebuyers; and
- Host a working roundtable on women's homeownership for lenders, real estate and housing industry representatives, women's advocates, and government officials.

TRANSPORTATION:

Promotion of Transportation Safety and Availability. DOT's ongoing initiatives include the development of more representative test dummies (i.e., children and pregnant women); development of a "smart" airbag to protect all vehicle passengers regardless of size; and development of a strategic plan to accommodate the growing numbers of elderly, focusing on medical issues, licensing, and alternative transportation means.

Patterns for Life Campaign. Over the next three years, the Department of Transportation (DOT)'s will sponsor a national campaign to develop safety habits for the nation's children by establishing safe transportation behavior starting with an infant's first ride home from the hospital. This effort will train community workers to provide the information locally.

Second National Conference on Women's Travel Issues. DOT co-sponsored this October, 1996 event that focused on the planning and policy implications of the travel patterns, needs and attitudes of women and their families with emphasis on traditionally underrepresented or minority women and households.

ENVIRONMENT:

The Environmental Protection Agency's ongoing and future efforts include:

- Development of an interim policy to incorporate current information on how women's health is affected differently by pollution as compared to men into assessing environmental risk and setting standards;
- Initiation of an in-depth study to develop recommendations for incorporating gender differences into decisions about environmental public health risks; taking action, if appropriate, in the regulatory process to ensure adequate protection to women throughout the life cycle.
- Incorporation into policy of the results from the current high-level of research on the effects of environmental chemicals and pollution on women.
- Co-sponsorship of an Institute of Medicine workshop in 1997, with the Office of Research on Women's Health, National Institutes of Health, to evaluate data gaps in women's health and environmental toxins and set priorities for research.
- Expansion of the community right-to-know, doubling the number of chemical releases reported to the public. Seventy-eight of the 286 new chemicals on the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) may cause reproductive and developmental effects. In the future, EPA will make it easier to access this critical information by making it available on the Internet, and targeting materials on reproductive and developmental risks for distribution to gynecologists, obstetricians, and women's health networks.
- Expansion of testing of chemicals, under the new Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments and the Food Quality Protection Act, that may pose breast cancer and reproductive and developmental risk to women.

INTERNATIONAL:

Treaties:

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): The ratification of this women's human rights treaty is the Administration's top priority among human rights treaties presently awaiting advice and consent by the U.S. Senate. In December 1996, President Clinton reaffirmed his commitment to ratification and called upon the Senate to act.
- The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women: The Department of Justice approved the U.S.' becoming a signatory to this treaty of the Organization of American States. The Departments of Justice and State will continue to consult.

Foreign Affairs:

- First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in a program at the State Department in observance of International Women's Day affirmed that the advancement of women is a U.S. foreign policy objective.
- The Senior Coordinator for International Women's issues is working to integrate the issues affecting women and girls into U.S. foreign policy.
- U.S. Government representatives have met with high level officials working for the war tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda to make sure that prosecutors are trained in issues of sexual violence against women. The U.S. is supporting a workshop for tribunal investigators and prosecutors on prosecuting cases of sexual violence.
- The State Department now documents and integrates women's human rights into its annual country reports on human rights. The 1996 human rights report contains the most comprehensive reporting by the State Department on violations of women's human rights to date. It has published monthly reports on progress made as international follow-up to the 1995 UN Fourth World Conference on Women.
- The State Department has funded two initiatives in Bosnia and Rwanda to assist women in those countries in opening their own businesses and getting back on their feet economically. These programs promote the reintegration of women into the economy through training programs, legal assistance and support for microenterprise projects.
- Many U.S. embassies use discretionary democracy and human rights funds to support grassroots efforts for the advancement of women. For example, the U.S. Embassy in Namibia devoted much of its 1996 democracy and human rights funds to programs aimed at eradicating sexual violence.
- The State Department is supporting a program to empower Asian women to overcome economic, social and political discrimination. A significant portion of the project will provide women with the skills and confidence to run for political office through the provision of training and educational programs.
- The U.S. is funding programs in Eastern and Central Europe to support fledgling NGOs, many of whom address issues of concern to women.

Development:

The Agency for International Development's activities include:

- Developing a Gender Plan of Action which includes modifying AID's strategic framework to reflect under each strategic objective the key role of women in development;
- The Women's Legal Rights Initiative helps women develop an understanding of the legal system and empower women to understand how law inhibits or promotes their participation in social and economic life. This includes the role of legal rights, especially property rights and inheritance laws, in promoting women's land tenure and ownership of housing -- all of which are key in supporting women's roles in management of the environment and sustainable agriculture. The Program now includes activities focused in Asia, the Newly Independent States and eastern Europe. It will be extended to Africa and Latin America in the next two years
- Increasing girls' primary school completion in 12 countries, and improving female literacy rates;
- Targeting \$70 million annually to assist women's microenterprise development. It focuses on providing credit, technical assistance and other financial services to women's microenterprise.

The Department of Commerce International Trade Administration provides technical assistance to community organizations in Northern Ireland in an effort to reach and assist women-run organizations to strengthen their economic capacity and establish a network of model U.S. organizations implementing successful programs in the U.S.

The Department of Agriculture is devoting agricultural extension resources to help women in Russia and Poland cope with the transition to a market economy. In Russia, training workshops have focused on family financial management, home economics, and developing alternative sources of income. In Poland, Agricultural Advisory Service women employees were among the first selected and trained to lead business planning workshops throughout the country. These women trained more than 2000 extension staff (about two-thirds women) to prepare business plans for farms and other businesses.

Communications:

Resource Page. The United States Information Agency has created an international resource page on worldwide follow-up to the UN World Conference on Women with links to relevant (NGO) sites: <http://www.usia.gov/topical/global/women/woman.htm>

Video. USIA's WorldNet produced a video of the two hour national conference via satellite "America's Commitment: The UN Women's Conference One Year Later." This conference, sponsored by the President's Interagency Council on Women, featured First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, senior women in government and leaders in women's rights. WorldNet has made it available to USIA missions.

HHS FACT SHEET

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

March 27, 1997

Contact: HHS Press Office
(202) 690-6343

Breast Cancer and Mammography

Overview: The Department of Health and Human Services supports a wide variety of programs in research, treatment and screening for breast cancer. Total HHS spending on breast cancer in FY 1997 is \$513 million for public health programs, in addition to an estimated \$280 million for mammography services paid for by Medicare and Medicaid.

Early detection of breast cancer is crucial for successful treatment, and HHS programs promote mammography and clinical breast exams. This is especially true for older women: about 80 percent of breast cancers occur in women age 50 or older, yet 40 percent of women age 50 and older have reported not having a mammogram in the past two years. HHS agencies support a number of efforts to inform women about mammography, assure high quality service, and help provide access:

- The National Cancer Institute, and other NIH institutes, provide information outreach and support broad research on breast cancer and on new breast imaging technologies*
- The Food and Drug Administration establishes quality standards for mammography facilities and certifies facilities*
- The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research has issued guidelines on the quality and delivery of mammography, and does research on mammography services*
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supports an early detection program providing access to mammography for uninsured and low-income women*
- Medicare and Medicaid cover treatment for breast cancer and for screening services. President Clinton has proposed improvements in Medicare and Medicaid coverage for mammography.*

The National Cancer Institute provides science-based guidance on the use of mammography. NCI now recommends that women age 40 and over be screened with mammography every one to two years. In addition, the institute recommends that women at higher risk of breast cancer get expert medical advice even before they are 40 about when to begin screening and about the frequency of their screening.

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed non-skin cancer in women in the United States. It is second only to lung cancer in cancer-related deaths. Approximately 180,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in 1997, and about 44,000 women are expected to die from the disease.

Between 1982 and 1987, breast cancer incidence (rate of new cases) for women increased about 4 percent per year, but recently has leveled off. The death rate for women with breast cancer declined 6.3 percent between 1991 and 1995. The greatest reductions in death rates were among younger women (9.3 percent) and white women (6.6 percent), with more modest reductions among African Americans (1.6 percent) and women age 65 and older (2.8 percent).

There are a variety of effective treatments for breast cancer, including surgery, radiotherapy, hormonal therapy, and chemotherapy.

Risk Factors

Elevated risk of breast cancer is associated with the following conditions:

- ◆ Having had a previous breast cancer.
- ◆ Laboratory evidence that the woman is carrying a specific genetic mutation or change that increases susceptibility to breast cancer.
- ◆ Having a mother, sister, or daughter with a history of breast cancer or having two or more close relatives, such as cousins, with a history of breast cancer.
- ◆ Having had a diagnosis of other types of breast disease (not cancer but a condition that may predispose to cancer) or having had two or more breast biopsies for benign disease, even if no atypical cells were found.
- ◆ Having so much dense breast tissue on a previous mammographic examination that clear reading was difficult.
- ◆ Having a first birth at age 30 or older.

Breast cancer is more prevalent in older age groups. The risk of breast cancer increases with age. About 80 percent of breast cancers occur in women age 50 or older. The risk is especially high in women over age 60. Breast cancer is uncommon under age 35. Present rates project that each year, out of 100,000 women:

- in their 30s, 43 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 8 will die of the disease;
- in their 40s, 163 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 29 will die of the disease;
- in their 50s, 263 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 59 will die of the disease;

- in their 60s, 374 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 91 will die of it.

Early Detection

Screening is a means to detect breast cancer before the onset of symptoms. High-quality mammography, with or without clinical breast exams, is the most effective technology presently available to detect breast tumors.

Several studies have shown that regular mammography screening can decrease the chance of dying from breast cancer. In addition, early detection may prevent the necessity of removing lymph nodes and in some cases may prevent the need for removing the entire breast or for undergoing chemotherapy.

Current NCI Guidance on Mammography

On February 25, the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB), a presidentially appointed committee that advises, assists, and consults with the NCI Director with respect to NCI activities and policies, began a discussion of the findings from the NIH Consensus Development Conference. NCAB members recognized the importance and complexity of the topic and decided to form a Working Group to develop clear recommendations to NCI. In late March, members of the full Board concurred with the Working Group's recommendations. These recommendations were also accepted by the National Cancer Institute.

The National Cancer Institute, following the advice of the NCAB, recommends:

- ◆ Women in their 40s who are at average risk of breast cancer should be screened every one to two years with mammography
- ◆ Women aged 50 and older should be screened every one to two years
- ◆ Women who are at higher risk of breast cancer should seek expert medical advice about whether they should begin screening before age 40 and the frequency of screening.

Along with mammograms, a clinical breast examination by a health care provider should be included as part of regular, routine health care.

Limitations of Mammography

While mammography is the best screening tool available now, early detection does not necessarily mean lives will be saved. Mammography may not help a woman with a small but fast growing tumor that has already spread at the time of detection. And about 50 percent of women whose breast cancer is detected by mammography would not have died from the cancer even if they had waited until a lump could be felt because the tumors are slow-growing and easy to treat.

Breasts of younger women contain many glands and ligaments that appear dense on a mammogram, so it is sometimes difficult to spot tumors in their breasts. About 25 percent of breast tumors are missed in women in their 40s compared to 10 percent for women in their 50s. Also, between 5 percent and 10 percent of mammograms are abnormal. Of those in younger women that are followed up with additional tests (another mammogram, fine needle aspiration, ultrasound, or biopsy) most will not be cancer. Over the past 30 years, mammography has been able to detect a higher proportion of small tissue abnormalities called ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), abnormal cells confined to the milk ducts of the breast. Some believe these tumors are not life threatening, while others think they are. Because there is so little data to support either view, the abnormalities are commonly removed surgically.

HHS is supporting a variety of research projects aimed at improving detection of breast cancer.

HHS PROGRAMS SUPPORTING MAMMOGRAPHY

Mammography Quality Standards. Under the Mammography Quality Standards Act, the FDA sets high standards for mammography facilities and certifies those which meet the standards. The roughly 10,000 mammography facilities nationwide certified by the FDA must meet quality standards for both equipment and personnel, and are inspected annually. MQSA regulations require facilities to hire capable technicians, use quality equipment that produces clear images, and employ skilled radiologists to interpret the results. The rules also require that doctors and patients be fully and quickly informed of results so that any follow-up testing or treatment can begin immediately. Resources devoted to the Mammography Quality Standards Act is \$26.4 million for FY 1997.

The names and locations of FDA certified mammography facilities are available by calling the Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER. In addition, the FDA has included a list of all FDA certified mammography facilities in the United States on its internet home page. The address is <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/faclist.html>

Research To Develop Better Screening. New imaging technologies under development for breast cancer screening include magnetic resonance imaging, breast ultrasound, and breast-specific positron emission tomography. In addition to imaging technologies, NCI-supported scientists are exploring methods to detect breast cancer using simple tests of the blood, urine, or nipple aspirates, and to detect genetic alterations that place women at increased risk for breast cancer.

In addition, HHS is working with the Department of Defense, the CIA, NASA, and other public and private entities to explore ways in which imaging technologies from other fields may be applied to the early detection of breast cancer. In particular, the computer technologies that have been used to improve spy satellites may help improve breast cancer detection as well. In October, 1996, HHS awarded \$1.98 million to the University of Pennsylvania to conduct a multi-site clinical trial of imaging technology from the intelligence community -- originally used for missile guidance and target recognition -- to improve the early detection of breast cancer.

Mammography Clinical Practice Guidelines. Recognizing the importance of the quality of screening mammograms in the early detection of breast cancer, HHS' Agency for Health Care Policy and Research developed a Clinical Practice Guideline – *Quality Determinants of Mammography* – with separate versions for mammography providers, health care professionals, and consumers. The guideline provides information on the roles and responsibilities of each health care professional involved in mammography services, as well as information and recommendations for women.

Medicare and Medicaid Coverage of Mammography. Since 1991, Medicare has covered mammography screening for the early detection of breast cancer. For women age 40-49, Medicare currently covers one screening mammogram every two years, except for women with a high risk (for example, a woman with a mother, sister or daughter who has had breast cancer), in which case annual mammograms are covered. For women age 50-64, annual screening mammograms are covered; and for women 65 and older, Medicare covers one screening mammogram every two years.

President Clinton is proposing to expand Medicare coverage to include annual mammograms for all Medicare beneficiaries age 40 and over, with no coinsurance or deductible requirement.

Under Medicaid, diagnostic mammograms are a mandated service and states must cover them. Screening mammograms, however, are provided by states as an optional service, with most states covering screening mammograms in fee-for-service Medicaid. In addition, virtually all Medicaid managed care plans offer preventive services, including mammography, to their enrollees.

The Health Care Financing Administration has urged states to provide annual mammography screening to Medicaid beneficiaries at age 40; HCFA will continue to provide federal matching payments for annual mammography screening services.

National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. The CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program offers free or low-cost mammography screening to uninsured, low-income, elderly, minority, and Native American women nationwide. The resources devoted to breast cancer screening services have increased from \$42 million in FY 1993, to \$81 million in FY 1997. The program, which has been operating in an increasing number of states over the past six years, has provided screening tests to almost one million medically underserved women. In October, 1996, the program went nationwide, with funding for all 50 states.

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HHS FACT SHEET

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HHS GIRL POWER! CAMPAIGN

Girl Power! is a multiphase, national public education campaign sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to help encourage and empower 9- to 14-year-old girls to make the most of their lives. Studies show that girls tend to lose self confidence and self worth during this pivotal age, becoming less physically active, performing less well in school, and neglecting their own interests and aspirations. It's during these years that girls become more vulnerable to negative outside influences and to mixed messages about risky behaviors.

During its first phase, **Girl Power!** will combine strong "no-use" messages about tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs with an emphasis on providing opportunities for girls to build skills and self-confidence in academics, arts, sports, and other endeavors. Subsequent phases will address related issues such as premature sexual activity, physical activity, nutrition, and mental health.

To provide positive messages, accurate health information, and support for girls and those who care about them, **Girl Power!** campaign products include a diary for girls containing writings and drawings by girls ages 9-14. Also available is a **Girl Power!** Hometown Press Kit with sample media pieces, fact sheets, and radio and print public service announcements (PSAs) easily adaptable for local use. Other campaign materials include:

- NBC – "The More You Know" TV PSAs with Julianna Margulies, star of NBC's "ER"
- Print PSAs and poster featuring Dominique Dawes, 1996 Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics
- Poster displays in 500 shopping malls via 3-M Media ("Have You Got It? **Girl Power!** We've Got the Power to be Drug Free!")
- **Girl Power!** web site on the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) home page at <http://www.health.org>
- **Girl Power!** bookmarks, baseball caps, and other products

Three aspects of the **Girl Power!** campaign set it apart from past government efforts:

- The **Girl Power!** campaign recognizes that while some health messages work equally well for boys and girls, girls also need to hear health messages targeted to their unique needs, interests, and challenges.
- The **Girl Power!** campaign takes a comprehensive approach, addressing not only a range of health issues but also the erosion of self confidence, motivation, and opportunity that is all too typical for many girls during the transitional period of 9-14 years of age.

- The **Girl Power!** campaign is also based on research indicating that girls at the age of 8 or 9 typically have very strong attitudes about their health. According to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America's *1995 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study*, for example, the overwhelming majority of girls and boys in grades 4 through 6 believe that "using drugs is dangerous." Younger girls also tend to be more physically active than older girls. This campaign works to reinforce and sustain these positive values among girls ages 9-14.

Research shows that early adolescence is a critical transition time from childhood to adolescence. It is a time of experimentation, risk taking, and growing independence. However, girls and boys experience some aspects of early adolescence in different ways, because they encounter different social, cultural, physiological and psychological challenges. For example, research shows that among girls, puberty tends to bring a higher incidence of depression, while among boys, puberty tends to increase the occurrence of aggressive behavior. According to HHS' 1995 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, ninth-grade girls are nearly twice as likely as ninth-grade boys to have thought seriously about attempting suicide in the past year (34.4 percent versus 18.2 percent) and more than twice as likely to attempt suicide at least once in the past year (14.9 percent versus 6.8 percent).

According to the Carnegie Corporation of New York's *Great Transitions: Preparing Adolescents for a New Century*, "nearly half of all American adolescents are at high or moderate risk of seriously damaging their life chances." Substance abuse in particular is an increasing problem among girls. HHS' 1995 Monitoring the Future Study, conducted by the University of Michigan, reports that daily cigarette use among eighth-grade girls (ages 13-14) jumped 48 percent between 1991 and 1995; nearly one out of every ten eighth-grade girls (9.2 percent) is now a daily cigarette smoker. Since 1991, the rate of past-month marijuana use among eighth-grade girls has risen slightly faster than the rate among boys, rising from 2.6 percent in 1991 to 8.2 percent in 1995. Alcohol use is also too high: nearly one fourth (24.0 percent) of eighth-grade girls say they consumed alcohol in the past month. And girls are at particular risk for depression, sedentary lifestyles, sexual abuse, and other problems associated with substance abuse. Studies also show that girls tend to lose self confidence in early adolescence, and, as a result, perform less well in school and neglect their interests and aspirations.

These changes reflect, in part, a new set of messages girls can receive at this age. For example:

- Some girls who experienced adult and peer approval for demonstrating athletic abilities before puberty may be discouraged from participating in many sports once their bodies show signs of maturing.
- Girls who performed well in the classroom at ages 9, 10, or 11 often perform less well in school at age 14, and may receive less incentive to actively participate in class discussions, with many teachers giving greater attention to boys in their classrooms.

- Girls in their early teens are often encouraged to place more emphasis on their personalities, social skills, looks, and ability to please others than on developing their own interests and aspirations. Studies show, for example, that 10- and 11-year-old girls are already concerned about controlling their weight. According to HHS' 1995 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, nearly two-thirds (63.8 percent) of ninth-grade girls report attempting to lose weight in the previous month.
- Girls and boys share many of the same personal and social-environmental reasons for smoking, such as low educational aspirations, low self-esteem, risk-taking, lower socioeconomic status, and smoking by parents, siblings, and friends. However, girls appear to smoke more for social reasons than boys, who smoke more to relieve stress and to "get along" in life. Girls are also much more likely than boys to report weight control as a benefit of smoking.

The goal of the **Girl Power!** campaign is to galvanize parents, schools, communities, religious organizations, health providers, and other caring adults to make regular, sustained efforts to reinforce girls' self confidence, by providing girls with positive messages, meaningful opportunities, and accurate information about key health issues. **Girl Power!** has over 100 private and public partners, including the Elks Club, Girls Inc., the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the National 4-H Council, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the National Association of School Nurses, and Jane Cosmetics by Sassaby. Dominique Dawes, 1996 Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics, will help promote the **Girl Power!** campaign.

Under the leadership of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the **Girl Power!** campaign was developed in consultation with the many health agencies that make up HHS and with national, state, and local organizations that serve girls. However, **Girl Power!** is also a product of the girls themselves. Across the country, girls from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds shared their concerns and ideas with SAMHSA in focus groups that provided the basis for the "**Girl Power!**" slogan. As a result, the **Girl Power!** campaign combines the latest knowledge about girls' lives with messages and materials designed to be appealing to girls and to the adults who care about them.

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*Individuals and organizations who want to participate in the campaign or receive materials, can call the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) at 1-800-729-6686 (TDD 1-800-487-4889) or visit the World Wide Web at <http://www.health.org> (NCADI). **GIRL POWER!** spokespersons are available for interview. To arrange an interview, call Terri Gates at 301-443-8956.*

HHS NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AT 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, March 20, 1997

Contact: NICHD Press Office
(301) 496-5133 or
(301) 435-3457

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES EXPANDED BACK TO SLEEP CAMPAIGN TIPPER GORE TO LEAD NEW EFFORT

The Clinton Administration announced today that Tipper Gore will lead an expanded public education effort designed to help prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The national Back to Sleep campaign, which has already reached many parents and health professionals with the message that placing babies on their backs to sleep can reduce the risk of SIDS, will now be expanded to target grandparents, babysitters, and day care workers as well.

HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala also announced that the Gerber Products Company will help to spread the word that babies should be placed on their backs to sleep by placing the Back to Sleep message on its cereal boxes, in mailings to new parents, and on its toll-free information number.

Largely as a result of a 1992 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendation and the increase in awareness produced by the Back to Sleep campaign, SIDS deaths in the United States declined by about 30 percent between 1992 and 1995. However, many caregivers still place babies on their stomachs to sleep. In announcing her new role, Mrs. Gore emphasized the need to reach Americans who may not have heard about this new recommendation in order to ensure that the message reaching parents and other caregivers on infant sleep position is clear and consistent.

"Placing babies on their backs to sleep is one of the most important steps that caregivers can take to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, but too many people still don't know this important, simple message," said Mrs. Gore. "Together, we need to continue to spread the word that placing infants on their backs to sleep can save infant lives."

"Gerber's help will allow the Back to Sleep campaign to reach more families who haven't yet heard that babies should be placed on their backs to sleep," said Secretary Shalala. "We must be vigilant in continuing to spread this important message, and Gerber's involvement will allow us to do just that."

Mrs. Gore also called on public and private groups to redouble their efforts to reach populations with the highest incidence of SIDS. Mrs. Gore noted that African-American babies are 2.4 times more likely than Caucasian babies to die of SIDS, and Native American babies are 2.8 times more susceptible.

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Beginning in June 1997, the *Back to Sleep* message will appear on the backs of 3 million Gerber cereal boxes. The Gerber Products Company will also include the message in mailings to 2.7 million mothers of newborns. In addition, a message recorded by Mrs. Gore will play on the Gerber toll-free information number, urging parents to place their babies on their backs to sleep and to talk to their doctors for more information on infant sleep position. The message, which will play on the Gerber toll-free information number 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, is expected to be heard by about 650,000 callers.

"All told, Gerber's efforts will send the *Back to Sleep* message into the homes of about 80 percent of all parents with infants in the United States," said Dr. Daniel Vasella, President and Head of the Executive Committee for the Novartis Corporation, Gerber Products Company's parent corporation. "We are pleased to be able to help spread this critical message."

SIDS is the sudden and unexplained death of an infant under one year of age. SIDS, sometimes known as crib death, strikes nearly 4,000 babies in the United States every year. The causes of SIDS are still unclear, and it is currently impossible to predict which infants might fall victim to SIDS. Recent studies have identified almost undetectable defects in SIDS infants in a region of the brain that may control sensing of carbon dioxide, breathing, and arousal during sleep.

"Gradually, scientists are identifying the underlying problems that can signal a risk of SIDS," said Secretary Shalala. "But until SIDS is better understood and can be treated, research shows that the simple strategy of placing babies on their backs to sleep can help to reduce the risk of SIDS."

In 1992, after reviewing the available evidence, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended that, to reduce the chance of dying from SIDS, healthy babies should be placed on their backs or sides to sleep. In 1996, the AAP revised its recommendation clarifying that placing babies to sleep on their backs has the lowest risk and is preferred.

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), part of the National Institutes of Health, launched the *Back to Sleep* campaign in 1994 to amplify the message that back sleeping can reduce the risk of SIDS and save lives. Major partners in the campaign, besides the NICHD, include HHS's Health Resources and Services Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the AAP, the SIDS Alliance, and the Association of SIDS and Infant Mortality Programs.

The recent decline in SIDS deaths reflects a 12 percent drop in the rate between 1993 and 1994, and an 18.5 percent drop between 1994 and 1995, the largest annual declines and the largest

- More -

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consecutive declines ever observed in the U.S. Further, SIDS dropped in 1994 from the 2nd to the 3rd leading cause of infant mortality, behind congenital anomalies and low birth weight/prematurity.

"The Back to Sleep campaign has made a real inroads into reducing infant deaths from SIDS and in reducing the infant mortality rate overall, but we must continue to spread the message," said Dr. Duane Alexander, Director of the NICHD.

Since its inception, the Back to Sleep campaign has worked to heighten awareness among parents and health care providers by producing and distributing brochures, posters, print public service announcements, and informational videos urging that babies be placed on their backs to sleep. The campaign has also spurred the development of state SIDS campaigns, developed a Back to Sleep internet web site (<http://www.nih.gov/nichd>), and established a toll-free phone number -- 1-800-505-CRIB -- that people can call to order Back to Sleep campaign materials.

Besides spreading the word that placing infants to sleep on their backs can save lives, the Back to Sleep campaign emphasizes several other steps that parents can take to help reduce the risk of SIDS. These include: making sure expectant mothers receive early and regular prenatal care; that they not smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs (unless prescribed by a doctor) during pregnancy; making sure babies sleep on firm surfaces free of fluffy bedding and soft toys or pillows; keeping babies' surroundings smoke-free; ensuring that babies don't get too warm when sleeping; contacting a baby's doctor or clinic right away when a baby seems sick; ensuring that babies receive their shots on schedule; and breastfeeding.

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*****NOTE:** Radio public service announcements and actualities from Mrs. Gore on SIDS and the Back to Sleep campaign will be available on the HHS Radio News Hotline from March 20 through April 4, 1997. Radio feeds can be reached by calling (202) 690-8317 or (800) 621-2984.

Note: HHS press releases are available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.dhhs.gov>.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Community Right-to-Know: Provided communities with new access to more information about chemicals released into their air and water. Issued Pollution Disclosure Executive Order requiring federal contractors to inform the public about pollution. Launched new labeling and disclosure programs to help consumers use household products safely and protect against lead paint hazards. Required over 6,000 new facilities -- in seven industrial sectors -- to begin reporting on toxic releases in local communities.

Revitalizing Communities: Accelerated the cleanup of brownfields -- abandoned, contaminated urban property -- by removing 30,000 sites from the Superfund list, clearing the way for local redevelopment while protecting the green areas outside our cities. Communities from Cleveland to Sacramento are gaining new jobs, new tax base, new hope with nearly \$20 million in seed grants awarded to 113 brownfields projects. Proposed a targeted \$2 billion tax incentive, expected to leverage \$10 billion in private sector brownfields investment. Expanded commitment to redevelopment at some 5,000 additional brownfield sites, with a \$300 million federal investment in communities and \$165 million in loan guarantees.

Safe Water: Signed Safe Drinking Water Act, based on Administration proposals, including new tough health standards, consumer right-to-know, and first-ever funding for communities to upgrade drinking water treatment. Set first-ever toxic water quality standards for all of the Great Lakes, which provide drinking water for 23 million Americans. Negotiated consensus plan to protect the San Francisco Bay Delta, source of drinking water for two-thirds of Californians and irrigation for 45 percent of American fruits and vegetables. Announced bold new plan to protect Everglades.

Safe Food: Signed food safety law -- setting a protective, comprehensive, health-based standard for all the pesticides, all risks, all foods. Law embodies President's proposals set forth four years ago.

Toxic Waste Clean-Up: Accelerated cleanup of toxic waste dumps by 20 percent and significantly reduced the cost. Completed more cleanups in four years than in previous 12 years of the Superfund program; pledged cleanup of two-thirds of worst toxic waste sites by year 2000, doubling the pace of cleanups.

Clean Air: Cut toxic air pollution from chemical plants by 90 percent. Through tough enforcement of the Clean Air Act, millions of Americans in dozens of cities are breathing cleaner air that meets public health standards.

Safer Incineration: As part of the Clinton Administration's "safety-first combustion strategy," EPA proposed the toughest public health standards ever for toxic air pollution from hazardous waste incinerators and cement kilns and issued new requirements for municipal incinerators that will result in a 99 percent reduction in emissions of cancer-causing dioxin.

Enforcement: Collected the largest fines in history from polluters charged with endangering public health and environment. Launched new compliance assistance program to help honest business owners comply with environmental laws.

Reinventing Government: Announced innovative new ways to achieve greater environmental results at less cost. Clinton Administration reforms have eliminated 16 million hours of paperwork for business and communities -- the equivalent of returning 400,000 work-weeks back to the private sector, at a cost savings to industry of \$480 million over the past 2 years.



Department of Justice

The Administration's Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Legislation

President Clinton's "The Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Act of 1997" offers a balanced approach to gangs and youth violence -- one that is both tough and smart. The Act invests substantial new resources in after-school initiatives and other similar efforts aimed at getting or keeping young people on the track to success. It targets gangs, gun crimes and illegal gun markets, and drugs. Finally, it redesigns and refocuses the way in which the federal government provides support for state and local efforts to fight juvenile crime.

- ◆ **New laws to better safeguard against misuse of guns by requiring a lock to be sold with every gun and prohibiting violent juvenile offenders from possessing guns as adults**
- ◆ **Gangs: \$200 million over two years for 1000 new gang-fighting initiatives in prosecutors offices across the country**
 - ▶ New prosecutors for a gang unit
 - ▶ Staff support for a violent youth or gang task force
 - ▶ Equipment to keep and share information about gangs and gang members
 - ▶ Programs to get young offenders back on the right track
 - ▶ Programs to target repeat offenders
- ◆ **Youth Violence Courts: \$50 million to expedite and more effectively handle violent juveniles in the court system**
 - ▶ Unified family and juvenile courts
 - ▶ Expedited dockets for violent juveniles
 - ▶ Systems for assessment and appropriate referral for violent juveniles
 - ▶ Special courts/programs to deal with violent offenders involved with guns or drugs
- ◆ **New laws to fight gangs and protect the witnesses who want to testify against them**
 - ▶ Enhanced pre-trial detention for persons accused of gang and other violent crime
 - ▶ New offense of conspiracy to intimidate or retaliate against a witness or informant
 - ▶ New penalties for persons who cross state lines to intimidate or retaliate against a witness or informant in a federal or state prosecution.

- ◆ **New laws to more streamline the federal prosecution of the most violent juveniles**
 - ▶ Prosecutorial discretion to transfer juvenile offenders to adult criminal court
 - ▶ Expand list of serious felonies for which a juvenile can be prosecuted as an adult

- ◆ **“At-Risk Children Initiative”: \$75 million for truancy, school violence, and other, similar programs aimed at getting kids on the track to success**
 - ▶ Truancy prevention initiatives
 - ▶ School violence reduction programs
 - ▶ Dispute resolution training programs
 - ▶ Substance abuse programs

- ◆ **After-school programs: \$62 million for programs to keep kids off the streets and give them worthwhile things to do after school, on weekends and during the summer (Note: Program administered by DoEd and HHS.)**
 - ▶ Mentoring initiatives
 - ▶ Sports and arts programs
 - ▶ Student tutoring
 - ▶ Teen pregnancy prevention counseling

- ◆ **A complete redesign and refocusing of the federal government’s grant-making to state and local jurisdictions for the purpose of fighting and preventing juvenile crime, violence and drug use**
 - ▶ Enhance coordination and streamline operations to better focus on youth crime
 - ▶ Strengthen research and evaluation to identify effective programs
 - ▶ Assist communities in replicating effective programs
 - ▶ Assist communities in developing new strategies
 - ▶ Support improvement in state and local practices, for example, increased collaboration and aftercare
 - ▶ Greater flexibility to meet more clearly defined goals

THE AMERICA READS CHALLENGE: THE INITIATIVE

American students are competitive on international comparisons when it comes to literacy, but too many young people are struggling through school because they have not mastered essential and basic reading skills. Research demonstrates that if students cannot read well by the end of third grade, their chances for success are significantly diminished, and they have a greater likelihood of dropping out or engaging in escalating delinquent behaviors. In 1994, 40 percent of America's fourth graders failed to attain the basic level of reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. In response, the President announced the Administration's commitment to mobilizing public and private resources to help all our children to read well.

The America Reads Challenge asks every American to identify what role he or she can play -- professionally and personally -- to help all of our children to read independently and well by the end of third grade. While remaining sensitive to the unique learning needs of each child, we must work hard to instill in each of them, and in ourselves, high expectations for their reading skills.

Study after study finds that sustained individualized attention and tutoring after school and over the summer, when combined with parental involvement and quality school instruction, can raise reading levels. Teachers, principals, and librarians play a key role by strengthening reading in school and extending learning through after-school, summer, and weekend programs. Parents and other concerned individuals in local communities, including the private sector, are equally valuable as tutors, mentors and reading partners. Engaging parents, educators, and the broader public to address this reading challenge together is the first step.

Several strategies are essential for helping our children learn to read:

Create More After School, Weekend and Summer Learning Opportunities To Supplement Classroom Instruction in Reading

Even when students receive the very best in-class instruction, some will always need extra time and assistance to meet the high levels of reading skills needed in school, in the workplace, and throughout life. The fundamental purpose of the America Reads Challenge is to enable parents and educators to complement and expand existing successful literacy efforts to help many more children increase their skills and achievement levels, and to provide children who need additional help in reading with extended learning time.

Research demonstrates that tutoring increases a child's reading achievement, confidence and motivation, in addition to a sense of control over his or her reading ability. Tutors -- whether they are volunteers, peers, cross-age tutors or professionals -- produce positive results.

The America Reads Challenge will build on, expand and initiate thousands of local efforts to

improve reading. It will also build upon nationwide efforts such as

- **Read!Write!Now!:** With 50 reading and literacy groups, the Department of Education designed this summer program in 1994 to help fight the "summer reading drop off." The program encourages children to read 30 minutes a day at least once or twice a week with an older reading partner, get a library card and use it, and learn a new vocabulary word a day. Local libraries, Title I schools and youth groups such as the Girl Scouts and Boys and Girls Club of America will help sponsor sites for this summer program -- expected to reach 1.5 million children.
- **Corporation for National Service:** National service grant programs that engage volunteer tutors in literacy efforts are working in hundreds of communities nationwide. This focus will continue to increase as all branches of national service -- AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America and the Senior Corps -- make childhood literacy a higher priority in their grant process.
- **Federal Work Study (FWS):** Colleges and universities throughout the nation will receive a 35 percent increase in Federal Work-Study funding beginning in July of 1997. President Clinton has challenged all colleges and universities to join The Honor Roll, by pledging 50 percent of their FWS increase for tutoring pre-school through elementary school children in reading. In exchange, Secretary Riley will waive the requirement for these colleges to match 25 percent of the funds for FWS students who serve as reading tutors. The goal is to enlist at least 100,000 college students to help with reading.
- **America Reads Challenge Legislation:** The Administration is proposing legislation that will launch the first nationwide effort to supplement classroom instruction in reading with high-quality volunteer tutoring, primarily after school and during summers. If enacted, the proposal would fund the start up or expansion of community partnerships among schools, libraries, community organizations, businesses, youth-serving groups and local literacy projects, among others, working to help children with reading. In addition, the legislation would create Parents as First Teachers grants to support programs that underscore the importance of parents staying involved in their children's lives as they make the transition into their school years.

Strengthen Parent Involvement and Our Nation's Investment in the Early Childhood Years, So That Our Children Develop Readiness Skills for Learning to Read by the Time They Enter School

Parents are their child's first and most important teachers beginning at birth. Every parent and caregiver can participate in simple daily activities with their babies and toddlers to teach them about language and to prepare them better to learn to read. Research shows that parents and

caregivers can engage in exercises to foster development of the necessary skills in their child, and parents and caregivers can work together to ensure that each child has the proper foundation for reading skills. Many local parent and community efforts across the country give examples of how successful parent and caregiver programs can be developed; however, there is far more need than programs currently available. The America Reads Challenge seeks to reinforce the importance of skill-building activities for children beginning at birth, and of programs that encourage and support parent involvement in these activities

Early childhood researchers, along with the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Corporation for National Service, have developed a kit called Ready*Set*Read that summarize ideas for parents and caregivers to help their young children develop and improve their language skills. The kit includes an activities booklet, a calendar of suggested daily activities, and a growth chart that identifies language skills many children can perform during each growth period.

Furthermore, a number of existing Federal resources and programs already delivering services to families with young children or involved in parent education and skills training can be strengthened in order to educate better and assist families with early childhood development and early literacy skills. For example:

- **Head Start Expansion:** One million 3- and 4-year olds will be reached through the expansion of Head Start programs, already a part of President Clinton's balanced budget
- **Even Start Expansion:** Additional investments are included in President Clinton's balanced budget plan to expand and strengthen family literacy efforts.

In addition, **Parents As First Teachers Grants** would support efforts that help parents who want to be active partners with their children as they transition into school, and throughout their education experience.

Bring Best Practices Into the School and Classroom

Teacher Preparation: Teachers often report they would like to be better prepared to teach reading in the classroom, and that they would like additional support and training from reading experts and professional development programs throughout their careers. Working with exemplary teachers and successful local reading programs, the Department of Education will identify examples to improve teacher development in reading instruction for experienced and beginning teachers.

As of May 16, 1997 (1:55pm)

Principal Leadership: In addition to teachers, principals are critical leaders in our schools and in our efforts to meet our children's education needs. While principals are often leaders in community efforts, many have expressed a desire for additional leadership training and development to prepare them better to work with communities to link reading efforts outside of school with in-class instruction. America Reads will participate in efforts with the Department of Education and principals around the country to support efforts to expand principal leadership training.

Strengthening of Title I: Additional investments are included in President Clinton's balanced budget plan to expand efforts to strengthen reading instruction during the regular school day.

Highlight Successful Reading Programs: As a part of this effort to bring best practices into our schools, strong reading programs will be identified based on current research and the findings will be disseminated. Three areas of particular focus will be children in poverty served by Title I, children with disabilities served by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and children who speak English as a second language.

Promote Greater Public Awareness and Local Partnership Building

The America Reads Challenge will encourage states and communities to form literacy partnerships among schools, libraries, youth-serving groups, businesses, public and private agencies and other community organizations, and to build on them where they already exist.

America Reads will use all available resources to raise awareness about what each of us can do to help our children learn to read well and independently by the end of third grade, beginning at birth.

Support Research and Evaluation

America Reads will continue to support research and evaluation in a range of critical areas related to reading and early childhood development. Dissemination of up-to-date research findings to a wide audience remains a priority. Research findings by the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development, for example, have been incorporated into materials used to improve reading for children with reading problems. Research on after-school tutoring and successful in-school instruction in reading for the U.S. Department of Education are being used in the America Reads Challenge. In addition, the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council report on prevention of reading difficulties in children will be completed by mid-November 1997.



Department of Justice

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FACT SHEET IMPLEMENTING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT May 21, 1997

OVERVIEW

The Violence Against Women Act, enacted as part of President Clinton 1994 Crime Act, represents a fundamental change in our criminal justice system's response to crimes such as domestic violence and sexual assault. For the first time, the federal government has adopted a comprehensive approach for fighting violence against women, combining a broad array of legal and practical reforms.

The Act provides a substantial new commitment of federal resources -- more than \$1.6 billion over six years -- for police, prosecution, prevention, and victim service initiatives. Perhaps the most important change is one of strategy. The Act promotes a coordinated approach to dealing with violent crimes against women by encouraging unprecedented cooperation and collaborative efforts at the federal, state and local levels.

CHANGES IN FEDERAL CRIMINAL LAW

Under the Violence Against Women Act, interstate domestic violence and harassment are now federal offenses. The law provides for the interstate enforcement of restraining orders. It outlaws the possession of ammunition and firearms by persons who are subject to restraining orders. The Violence Against Women Act already has been used for nearly 30 federal prosecutions, complementing prosecutions that are taking place at a state and local level. The law does not federalize all cases of domestic violence or sexual assault. Rather, it provides a useful new tool for federal, state and local prosecutors.

ASSISTING POLICE, PROSECUTORS AND VICTIM ADVOCATES

The Justice Department's STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Grant Program assists law enforcement officers and prosecutors in developing better strategies to combat domestic violence and other violent crimes against women. Since 1995, more than \$300 million has been distributed to states and territories for law enforcement and victim services designed to combat domestic violence and sexual assault. The STOP Grant Program promotes a coordinated approach -- with incentives for states to pool the expertise and resources of law enforcement, prosecutors, courts and victims' advocates.

THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

The 24-hour, toll-free, National Domestic Violence Hotline -- 1-800-799-SAFE -- provides crisis assistance, counseling, and local shelter referrals to victims across the country. It was unveiled by President Clinton in February of 1996 and in its early months, the hotline received over 30,000 calls -- far exceeding expectations. The hotline was established by the Violence Against Women Act and is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services.

USING COMMUNITY POLICING TO FIGHT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On June 20, 1996, President Clinton announced \$46 million for a grant program to utilize community policing to combat domestic violence. The program is administered by the Justice Department's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office. More than 300 jurisdictions have received grants through this program for innovative community policing strategies aimed at curbing domestic violence. In addition, the Justice Department has distributed \$7 million to fund rural domestic violence programs, and \$46 million has been awarded to 122 communities to encourage mandatory arrest policies for the primary aggressor in domestic violence cases.

TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR JUDGES, PROSECUTORS AND POLICE

The Office of Justice Programs, as part of its mandate to oversee the effective expenditure of grant funds, has joined in cooperative agreements with organizations such as the National District Attorneys Association, the Police Executive Research Forum, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, to develop training workshops and provide information to criminal justice professionals in every area of the country.

ENSURING THAT PROTECTION ORDERS ARE HONORED

In February of 1996, Attorney General Reno announced a pilot project in Kentucky to test interstate and intrastate verification systems for street level enforcement of protection orders. The Justice Department has also entered into a cooperative agreement with the Battered Women's Justice Project to develop a resource clearinghouse and models on how states are implementing full faith and credit. In addition, DOJ will fund a task force created by the Conference of State Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators focusing on full faith and credit.

WORKPLACE AWARENESS EFFORTS

President Clinton signed an executive memorandum on October 2, 1995 requiring all federal departments to begin employee awareness efforts on domestic violence. The Justice Department distributed more than 90,000 copies of a domestic violence awareness booklet entitled "Stop the Cycle of Violence." The Department sponsored an information fair and leads the Interagency Working Group on Violence Against Women to encourage greater efforts on the part of other executive branch agencies.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SEXUAL HARASSMENT GUIDANCE FACT SHEET
WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING FOR WOMEN'S MAGAZINES

May 21, 1997

Judith A. Winston
Acting Under Secretary and General Counsel

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex in any education program or activity that receives federal financial assistance.

It has been the Department's longstanding position that *sexual harassment of students is a form of sex discrimination* -- whether engaged in by school employees, other students, or third parties such as a visiting speaker or visiting athletes: *Sexual harassment can interfere with a student's academic performance and emotional and physical well being. It undermines an essential mission of schools to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory learning environment for all students.*

On March 13, 1997 the Department of Education published *sexual harassment guidance* in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The Guidance provides, for the first time, a comprehensive and accessible guide to the longstanding standards the Department uses to investigate and resolve sexual harassment complaints; it applies to every level of education. The Guidance also addresses recent court decisions involving sexual harassment of students.

The Guidance instructs *school personnel, parents, and students* regarding:

- What conduct is, and is not, sexual harassment under Title IX.
- Under what circumstances schools will be liable for sexual harassment under Title IX.
- How schools should respond to information or complaints regarding sexual harassment in their programs or activities.

The following important issues are discussed in the Guidance:

- Title IX gives *schools flexibility to respond appropriately to sexual harassment* depending on the circumstances involved, including the age of the students and the severity of the conduct.
- The Guidance also explains that *not all behavior with sexual connotations is sexual harassment* under Title IX: In order to violate Federal law, sexual harassment must be sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that

it adversely affects a student's education or creates a hostile or abusive educational environment.

- ***Nor is the Guidance intended to discourage appropriate physical contact in schools:*** Title IX's prohibition of sexual harassment does not extend to nonsexual conduct such as a coach hugging a student who made a goal, or a teacher hugging a young student with a skinned knee.
- ***Title IX does not ban flirtation:*** As the Guidance makes clear, in order to be considered sexual harassment the conduct must be unwelcome. To evaluate whether the conduct was welcome, schools should look at the totality of the circumstances.
- ***A school is liable under Title IX for peer sexual harassment only where it knows or should have known of the harassment but fails to take appropriate steps to remedy the hostile environment.*** Title IX does not make a school responsible for the actions of the harassing student, but rather for its own discrimination: If one student subjects another student to severe, persistent, or pervasive sexual harassment, and the school knows about it, but does not stop it, the school forces the victim of harassment to endure a sexually discriminatory environment in order to obtain an education.
- The Guidance clearly states -- and illustrates through examples -- that when taking actions in response to sexual harassment ***a school must protect academic freedom and other free speech rights.***

INTERNET:

A copy of the Guidance can be obtained on the Internet at:
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/sexhar00.html>.

In addition, the Department's sexual harassment pamphlet -- Sexual Harassment: It's Not Academic -- can be obtained at:
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/ocrshpam.html>.



Washington, D.C. 20530

**U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
SELECTED STATISTICS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

- ◆ Women were attacked seven times more often by offenders with whom they had an intimate relationship than were male violence victims.
- ◆ Women experienced over 1,000,000 violent victimizations per year committed by an intimate, compared to approximately 143,000 incidents per year committed against men.
- ◆ Women are more likely to be injured in violent incidents committed by intimates than in incidents committed by strangers.
- ◆ Nearly 30 percent of all female homicide victims were known to have been killed by their husbands, former husbands or boyfriends. In contrast, just over 3 percent of male homicide victims were known to have been killed by their wives, former wives or girlfriends.
- ◆ Husbands, former husbands, boyfriends and ex-boyfriends committed 26 percent of rapes and sexual assaults.
- ◆ Forty-five percent of all violent attacks against female victims 12 years old and older by multiple offenders involve offenders they know.
- ◆ The rate of intimate-offender attacks on women separated from their husbands was about three times higher than that of divorced women and about 25 times higher than that of married women.
- ◆ Women of all races were equally vulnerable to attacks by intimates. However, women in families with incomes below \$10,000 per year were more likely than other women to be violently attacked by an intimate.

Sources: *BJS, Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey, August 1995*
BJS, Violence Between Intimates, November 1994

October 1, 1996



Department of Justice

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FACT SHEET IMPLEMENTING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT May 21, 1997

OVERVIEW

The Violence Against Women Act, enacted as part of President Clinton 1994 Crime Act, represents a fundamental change in our criminal justice system's response to crimes such as domestic violence and sexual assault. For the first time, the federal government has adopted a comprehensive approach for fighting violence against women, combining a broad array of legal and practical reforms.

The Act provides a substantial new commitment of federal resources -- more than \$1.6 billion over six years -- for police, prosecution, prevention, and victim service initiatives. Perhaps the most important change is one of strategy. The Act promotes a coordinated approach to dealing with violent crimes against women by encouraging unprecedented cooperation and collaborative efforts at the federal, state and local levels.

CHANGES IN FEDERAL CRIMINAL LAW

Under the Violence Against Women Act, interstate domestic violence and harassment are now federal offenses. The law provides for the interstate enforcement of restraining orders. It outlaws the possession of ammunition and firearms by persons who are subject to restraining orders. The Violence Against Women Act already has been used for nearly 30 federal prosecutions, complementing prosecutions that are taking place at a state and local level. The law does not federalize all cases of domestic violence or sexual assault. Rather, it provides a useful new tool for federal, state and local prosecutors.

ASSISTING POLICE, PROSECUTORS AND VICTIM ADVOCATES

The Justice Department's STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Grant Program assists law enforcement officers and prosecutors in developing better strategies to combat domestic violence and other violent crimes against women. Since 1995, more than \$300 million has been distributed to states and territories for law enforcement and victim services designed to combat domestic violence and sexual assault. The STOP Grant Program promotes a coordinated approach -- with incentives for states to pool the expertise and resources of law enforcement, prosecutors, courts and victims' advocates.

THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

The 24-hour, toll-free, National Domestic Violence Hotline -- 1-800-799-SAFE -- provides crisis assistance, counseling, and local shelter referrals to victims across the country. It was unveiled by President Clinton in February of 1996 and in its early months, the hotline received over 30,000 calls -- far exceeding expectations. The hotline was established by the Violence Against Women Act and is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services.

USING COMMUNITY POLICING TO FIGHT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On June 20, 1996, President Clinton announced \$46 million for a grant program to utilize community policing to combat domestic violence. The program is administered by the Justice Department's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office. More than 300 jurisdictions have received grants through this program for innovative community policing strategies aimed at curbing domestic violence. In addition, the Justice Department has distributed \$7 million to fund rural domestic violence programs, and \$46 million has been awarded to 122 communities to encourage mandatory arrest policies for the primary aggressor in domestic violence cases.

TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR JUDGES, PROSECUTORS AND POLICE

The Office of Justice Programs, as part of its mandate to oversee the effective expenditure of grant funds, has joined in cooperative agreements with organizations such as the National District Attorneys Association, the Police Executive Research Forum, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, to develop training workshops and provide information to criminal justice professionals in every area of the country.

ENSURING THAT PROTECTION ORDERS ARE HONORED

In February of 1996, Attorney General Reno announced a pilot project in Kentucky to test interstate and intrastate verification systems for street level enforcement of protection orders. The Justice Department has also entered into a cooperative agreement with the Battered Women's Justice Project to develop a resource clearinghouse and models on how states are implementing full faith and credit. In addition, DOJ will fund a task force created by the Conference of State Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators focusing on full faith and credit.

WORKPLACE AWARENESS EFFORTS

President Clinton signed an executive memorandum on October 2, 1995 requiring all federal departments to begin employee awareness efforts on domestic violence. The Justice Department distributed more than 90,000 copies of a domestic violence awareness booklet entitled "Stop the Cycle of Violence." The Department sponsored an information fair and leads the Interagency Working Group on Violence Against Women to encourage greater efforts on the part of other executive branch agencies.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Under the direction of Attorney General Reno and Bonnie J. Campbell, Director of the Violence Against Women Office, the Justice Department has worked aggressively to educate the public about the problems of domestic violence and sexual abuse. The Attorney General and Director Campbell have traveled extensively to meet, work and speak with those on the front lines throughout the country. In April of 1997, Campbell was selected by **Time** magazine as one of "1997's 25 Most Influential Americans" in recognition of her work to raise public awareness of domestic violence.

The Department has created a Violence Against Women Home Page on the internet, and distributes a newsletter on the Violence Against Women Act for community-based organizations throughout the country. In addition, the Violence Against Women Advisory Council, which reports to the Attorney General and Secretary Shalala, created a community checklist on domestic violence and sexual assault and distributed it to more than 10,000 groups throughout the country.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM VIOLENT SEXUAL OFFENDERS

The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, enacted as part of President Clinton's Crime Act, was amended by the federal Megan's Law, signed by the President on May 17, 1996. Under these statutes, sex offenders and child molesters must register information about their whereabouts with appropriate state law enforcement agencies for ten years after release from prison, and state prison officials must notify local law enforcement when they are released. States must notify the general public when a particularly dangerous sex offender moves into their community. In August 1996, Attorney General Reno responded to President Clinton's request for a plan to create a national registry to track sex offenders, including rapists and child molesters. An interim registry is now in place, permitting law enforcement to check on the criminal histories of offenders registered in other states.

CONCLUSION

By committing new federal resources and focusing attention on these issues, the Violence Against Women Act is working to insure that the nation's criminal justice system responds to the needs and concerns of women who have been, or could be, victimized by violence. In every area of the country, programs and activities are underway that were not in place three years ago, efforts ranging from new specialized prosecution and law enforcement units to expanded services for previously underserved women. Prosecutors have new tools and victims have more protection. Working together as partners, federal, state and local law enforcement are taking critical steps to combat domestic violence and sexual assaults.

U.S. Department of Labor

Alexis M. Herman, Secretary



Important Phone Numbers

Women's Bureau National Office

(202) 219-6611

Fair Pay Clearinghouse

(800) 347-3741

Work & Family Clearinghouse

(800) 835-5335

Family and Medical Leave Information Line

(800) 959-FMLA

Pension and Retirement Savings Information Line

(800) 998-7542

Useful Internet Websites

America's Job Bank Internet Site

www.ajb.dni.us

U.S. Department of Labor Home Page

www.dol.gov

Women's Bureau Internet Site

www.dol.gov/dol/wb/

Pension and Welfare Benefits Internet Site

www.dol.gov/dol/pwba

News Release



U.S. Department of Labor

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Women's Bureau

CONTACT: Zina Pierre
202/219-6611

USDL: 97-175
FOR RELEASE: Immediate
Tuesday, May 20, 1997

WOMEN'S BUREAU REACHES OUT TO WORKING WOMEN VIA INFORMATION SUPER-HIGHWAY

Women can now get the latest information on women in the labor force with the click of a mouse. The U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau has launched ten regional websites providing localized statistical data, resource information, in-house publications and reports, and news updates/upcoming events for every state.

"As we approach the 21st Century it is key that we provide America's working women--and women who want to work--with the necessary tools and the understanding of the future of the workplace," said Labor Secretary Alexis M. Herman.

The regional web pages are designed to inform the public about issues affecting the lives of America's working women. It also serves as a direct link to the only federal agency mandated to promote the welfare of wage-earning women. The user-friendly regional websites can be accessed through the Women's Bureau home page address (www.dol.gov/dol/wb/welcome.html) or directly at (www.dol.gov/dol/wb/public/info_about_wb/regions/regions.htm).

In addition, through on-line access to the Fair Pay Clearinghouse, browsers can also gain vital information on pay equity for women.

"The Women's Bureau regional websites are just beginning steps into this new era of high technology," said Ida L. Castro, head of the bureau. "So we want to ensure that women get the facts, understand their rights and know what works in the new culture of work, and these websites do just that."

-more-

Internet surfers can also send their inquiries or comments to the Women's Bureau National Office e-mail address at (www.wb-wwc@dol.gov) or call the bureau's toll-free 24-hour clearinghouse at (800) 827-5335.

#

U.S. Labor Department news releases are accessible on the Internet at: <http://www.dol.gov>

The information in this news release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. TDD Message Referral Phone: 1-800-326-2577, Voice phone: (202) 219-7316.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Community Right-to-Know: Provided communities with new access to more information about chemicals released into their air and water. Issued Pollution Disclosure Executive Order requiring federal contractors to inform the public about pollution. Launched new labeling and disclosure programs to help consumers use household products safely and protect against lead paint hazards. Required over 6,000 new facilities -- in seven industrial sectors -- to begin reporting on toxic releases in local communities.

Revitalizing Communities: Accelerated the cleanup of brownfields -- abandoned, contaminated urban property -- by removing 30,000 sites from the Superfund list, clearing the way for local redevelopment while protecting the green areas outside our cities. Communities from Cleveland to Sacramento are gaining new jobs, new tax base, new hope with nearly \$20 million in seed grants awarded to 113 brownfields projects. Proposed a targeted \$2 billion tax incentive, expected to leverage \$10 billion in private sector brownfields investment. Expanded commitment to redevelopment at some 5,000 additional brownfield sites, with a \$300 million federal investment in communities and \$165 million in loan guarantees.

Safe Water: Signed Safe Drinking Water Act, based on Administration proposals, including new tough health standards, consumer right-to-know, and first-ever funding for communities to upgrade drinking water treatment. Set first-ever toxic water quality standards for all of the Great Lakes, which provide drinking water for 23 million Americans. Negotiated consensus plan to protect the San Francisco Bay Delta, source of drinking water for two-thirds of Californians and irrigation for 45 percent of American fruits and vegetables. Announced bold new plan to protect Everglades.

Safe Food: Signed food safety law -- setting a protective, comprehensive, health-based standard for all the pesticides, all risks, all foods. Law embodies President's proposals set forth four years ago.

Toxic Waste Clean-Up: Accelerated cleanup of toxic waste dumps by 20 percent and significantly reduced the cost. Completed more cleanups in four years than in previous 12 years of the Superfund program; pledged cleanup of two-thirds of worst toxic waste sites by year 2000, doubling the pace of cleanups.

Clean Air: Cut toxic air pollution from chemical plants by 90 percent. Through tough enforcement of the Clean Air Act, millions of Americans in dozens of cities are breathing cleaner air that meets public health standards.

Safer Incineration: As part of the Clinton Administration's "safety-first combustion strategy," EPA proposed the toughest public health standards ever for toxic air pollution from hazardous waste incinerators and cement kilns and issued new requirements for municipal incinerators that will result in a 99 percent reduction in emissions of cancer-causing dioxin.

Enforcement: Collected the largest fines in history from polluters charged with endangering public health and environment. Launched new compliance assistance program to help honest business owners comply with environmental laws.

Reinventing Government: Announced innovative new ways to achieve greater environmental results at less cost. Clinton Administration reforms have eliminated 16 million hours of paperwork for business and communities -- the equivalent of returning 400,000 work-weeks back to the private sector, at a cost savings to industry of \$480 million over the past 2 years.



Environmental News

FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1996

EPA ADMINISTRATOR RELEASES NEW REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH THREATS TO CHILDREN

Luke C. Hester 202-260-1383

EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner today released a major new report that details health threats faced by children from toxics in the environment and sets forth a new national agenda to protect children from those risks more comprehensively than ever before.

Browner said, "We've learned that children face significant, long-term and unique threats from environmental toxics. For the first time, this report looks comprehensively at the impact of environmental pollution on children, and we believe that we must take a comprehensive approach to providing children with stronger health protection. Only when we have protected our children from toxic threats can we be sure that we are providing adequate public health protection for all Americans."

Browner said the report, Environmental Health Risks to Children, was prompted by the wide array of children's health problems that can be brought on by environmental risks. Among the report's findings are that:

- Asthma deaths among children and young people increased by 118 percent between 1980 and 1993, and asthma is now the leading cause of hospital admissions for children;
- Children exposed to tobacco smoke at home have 16 million more days of restricted activity, 10 million more days of bed confinement, and miss 7 million more school days each year than other children;
- Lead poisoning affects as many as 1.7 million children age five and under;
- Ten million children under the age of 12 live within four miles of a toxic waste dump;
- Polluted waters can affect children when they swim in rivers or lakes, and when they eat certain freshwater fish;
- Children may face developmental effects from emerging problems, such as the potential effects on endocrine systems from pesticides and industrial chemicals;
- Children are more at risk from toxics because their systems are still developing and because they consume more food and fluids, relative to their body size, than adults do; and
- Children's unique behavior -- crawling on the ground or playing outside -- exposes them more to pollutants and related health risks.

"We must meet the challenge of protecting our children from toxics in our environment," said Browner. "An awareness of children's unique susceptibility and exposure to toxic threats must guide every action we take to protect public health and the environment." She noted that the Agency will embark on implementing a comprehensive National Agenda to Protect Children's Health from Environmental Threats.

The Agenda, described in the report, will be undertaken by EPA, other governmental agencies, industry and health professionals, parents, teachers, and other stakeholder groups. The Agenda includes several specific actions to provide better protection of children's environmental health in such key areas as setting protective public health standards, expanding scientific research, and providing families with expanded right-to-know information. Among the actions outlined in the Agenda are:

- 1) EPA will set public health and environmental standards to ensure that they protect children, under a new national policy, and review the most significant current standards to ensure that they protect children. New standards will reflect prevention of threats to children where possible, and existing standards will be re-evaluated as new scientific knowledge emerges. Five of the Agency's most significant current standards will be re-evaluated on an expedited basis; they will be selected with public input and scientific peer review.
- 2) To ensure that EPA applies the best science to its efforts to protect children, the Agency will identify and expand research on their unique susceptibility and exposure to environmental pollutants, so that new protections can be established that meet their unique needs. The Agency will seek to establish and fund two National Centers of Excellence on Children's Environmental Health at established medical institutions to provide a focus for such research.
- 3) To ensure that children's health is approached comprehensively, EPA will address children's total exposure to toxic chemicals, moving beyond chemical-by-chemical approaches of the past. The new policies will be implemented Agency-wide to better reflect cumulative and simultaneous exposures.
- 4) EPA will greatly expand its right-to-know and education efforts about children's environmental health threats, to provide better consumer information to families about children's risks; educate parents, teachers and community leaders about those risks and steps they can take to identify and address them; and educate health professionals to identify, prevent and reduce toxic threats to children.

The agenda builds on a series of actions taken by EPA to protect children, including: unprecedented steps to protect children from the risks posed by pesticides in their food; a national policy to take into account children's health risks when assessing environmental risks on which standards are based; and safety controls and widespread public information on toxic hazards in the home, including lead-based paint.



Environmental Health Threats To Children





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

September 1996

Dear Reader:

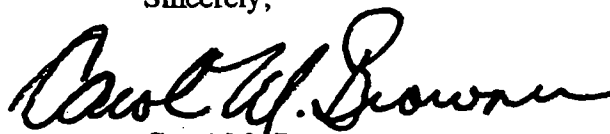
EPA's report on *Environmental Health Threats to Children* presents the latest information on a major issue concerning today's families – how children's health is directly and uniquely affected by our environment. Today, we recognize that children face an array of complex environmental threats to their health – from asthma-inducing air pollution to toxic chemicals. This report describes how and why children are affected by these threats.

The report also details the Clinton Administration's substantial efforts to protect children from environmental health threats. These actions range from signing new laws that explicitly protect children from pesticides and provide safer drinking water, to expanding families' right-to-know about lead-based paint and other environmental pollutants, to issuing tough new standards for industrial air pollution. I firmly believe that we can best protect the health of all Americans and our environment by protecting our children.

Also contained in this report is EPA's *National Agenda to Protect Children's Health from Environmental Threats*, in which we call for a national commitment to ensure a healthy future for our children. We call on national, state and local policy makers – as well as each community and family – to learn about the environmental threats our children face; to participate in an informed national policy debate on how together we can best reduce health risks for children; and to take action to protect our nation's future by protecting our children.

EPA is committed to providing the American people with as much information as possible about environmental issues affecting children's health. This report is a major step forward in educating the nation about what we can do to ensure for our children a healthy environment and a healthy future.

Sincerely,


Carol M. Browner



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Executive Summary

Protecting Our Children Is Fundamental

Protecting our children is one of the Clinton Administration's highest priorities. Healthy children and strong families are fundamental to the future of our nation. Protecting our environment is critical to our children's health today, and lays the groundwork for a healthier future for their generation, and for generations to come. As a nation, we must remain vigilant about protecting our children from environmental hazards—which we now recognize pose many unique threats to children's health. This report outlines the status of children's environmental health; sets forth Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) accomplishments in protecting children from environmental health risks; and puts forward EPA's agenda that challenges the nation to ensure our children's healthy futures.

Children Are Particularly Vulnerable to Environmental Health Risks

For several years, the Clinton Administration has recognized and worked to improve our understanding of how children are at increased risk from many environmental threats, compared to adults. Children are particularly at risk from environmental hazards in three ways:

- Because children's systems are still developing—including rapid changes in growth and development, immature body organs and tissues, and weaker immune systems in infancy—they are more susceptible to environmental threats.
- Because children eat proportionately more food, drink more fluids, and breathe more air per pound of body weight, and because they play outside more, they are more exposed to environmental threats.
- Because children are least able to protect themselves, their behavior—such as crawling on the ground or the floor—exposes them to different environmental hazards.

Children Face a Wide Array of Environmental Hazards

Children today face significant and unique threats from a range of environmental hazards. Government and its partners have never faced a more complex challenge in protecting children. Environmental health hazards that threaten children range from asthma-inducing air pollution and lead-based paint in older homes, to treatment-resistant microbes in drinking water and persistent industrial chemicals that may cause cancer or induce reproductive or developmental changes. Just as the nation rose to meet the challenge of uncontrolled industrial pollution over the past 25 years, so too should we now commit to meet this new and critical challenge for our future.

The Clinton Administration Has Acted to Protect Children from Environmental Risks

The Clinton Administration has made great strides in protecting children. The Administration's new policy ensuring consideration of special environmental threats to children in the development of risk assessments, as well as its research agenda focusing on food pesticides and other exposures unique to children are among the many efforts the Clinton Administration has made to improve protection of children's health, based on cutting-edge science.

The centerpiece of EPA's effort has been Administrator Carol M. Browner's national policy, announced on October 23, 1995, to consistently and explicitly take into account health risks to children and infants from environmental hazards when conducting assessments of environmental risks. This new policy directly responds to issues raised by the National Academy of Sciences 1993 report, *Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children*, and is an extension of Administrator Browner's efforts to make children's health a priority throughout the Agency.

The Clinton Administration also has made children's health issues a high priority across all of EPA's work, including: drinking water protections; toxic waste clean-ups; toxic air pollution reduction; protections for rivers, lakes and streams; safety controls for toxic chemicals used at home; lead poisoning prevention; enforcement of environmental laws; and, most critically, use of the best scientific research to answer the many questions that remain about how children's health is affected by environmental hazards.

Responding swiftly to recommendations in the National Academy of Sciences 1993 report, the Clinton Administration took unprecedented steps to protect the health of children from the risks posed by pesticides in their food. The Administration committed to ensuring the safety of foods our children eat by considering children's unique exposures and risks, and by reducing the overall use and risks of pesticides in the United States. EPA has intensified its efforts to: reduce the use of high-risk pesticides; increase the research and testing needed to learn more about children's exposure to pesticides in food; and establish new standards to protect children and infants from dietary health risks posed by pesticides. EPA also is expanding its assessment of the effects from substances on children's neurological, endocrine, and immune systems.

More Remains to be Done

The array of environmental threats facing children today—and the uncertainties in the adequacy of current protections derived principally to protect adults—will require great care and commitment to address. We recognize that children's environmental health issues are a

top priority and must become a central focus of all EPA's efforts.

We thus challenge our partners in industry, governments, Congress, academics, health professions and interest groups to commit to adopt and help to implement EPA's

National Agenda to Protect Children's Health From Environmental Threats.

To meet this challenge, the Administration will:

1. As a national policy, ensure that all standards EPA sets are protective of the potentially heightened risks faced by children, and that the most significant current standards be re-evaluated as we learn more;
2. Identify and expand scientific research opportunities on child-specific susceptibility and exposure to environmental pollutants so that the best information can be employed in developing protections for children;
3. Develop new, comprehensive policies to address cumulative and simultaneous exposures faced by children—analogous to the goal of EPA's Common Sense

Initiative—moving beyond the chemical-by-chemical approach of the past;

4. Expand community right-to-know—building on successes under the current law and expanding the available tools through a Family Right-to-Know Initiative—to allow families to make informed choices concerning environmental exposures to their children;
5. Provide parents with basic information so they can take individual responsibility for protecting their children from environmental health threats in their homes, schools, and communities;
6. Expand educational efforts with health and environmental professionals to identify, prevent, and reduce environmental health threats to children; and
7. Commit to provide the necessary funding to address children's environmental health issues as a top priority among relative health risks, as started in the President's Fiscal Year 1997 Budget.

EPA's National Agenda to Protect Children's Health from Environmental Threats will, together with the efforts of our partners, ensure that children receive the protection they need and deserve, and help our nation fulfill its obligation to protect future generations.



Note to Correspondents

FOR RELEASE: MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1997

President Clinton today signed an executive order to reduce environmental health and safety risks to children. Attached are statements by Vice President Gore and EPA Administrator Browner and a fact sheet on the executive order.

R-60

**John Kasper, Director
Press Services Division**

**THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, April 21, 1997**

CONTACT: 202-456-7035

**VICE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE ORDER TO REDUCE
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS TO CHILDREN
Action Will Require Agencies to Consider Effects of Federal Rules on Children**

WASHINGTON D.C. — Vice President Gore visited the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. today (4/21) and announced an executive order to reduce environmental health and safety risks to children.

"This executive order says to every federal agency and department: put our children first. We Americans owe our largest responsibility to our smallest citizens" said Vice President Gore. "From now on, agencies will have to take a hard look at the special risks and disproportionate impact that standards and safeguards have on our children."

The executive order, which President Clinton signed today, includes actions that will strengthen policies and improve research to protect children, and ensure that new safeguards consider special risks to children. It would, for the first time, require agencies to analyze and explain the effects of their rules on children.

Studies have demonstrated that children are at a disproportionate risk from environmental health, and safety hazards. These disproportionate risks -- which can lead to illnesses like cancer, leukemia, and asthma -- stem from fundamental differences, in terms of physiology and activity, between children and adults.

The Clinton Administration has taken bold steps to provide explicit protection for children in initiatives such as the Food Quality Protection Act and Safe Drinking Water Act; development of new standards for passive restraints for children in cars; and administrative action to protect children from tobacco, lead and other hazards. This executive order is another example of the Administration's continued commitment to protecting America's children from environmental and safety hazards.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Carol M. Browner, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Executive Order to Protect Children
from Environmental Risks and Safety Risks
Washington, DC
April 21, 1997**

I am delighted to welcome everyone here today -- the doctors, the nurses and everyone associated with this wonderful hospital -- and especially the Vice President and Secretary Shalala -- for the announcement of this historic initiative to strengthen America's families, protect the public health, and safeguard the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land on which we live.

At last week's White House conference on early childhood development, the First Lady offered these words from the Chilean poet, Gabriela Mistral:

"Many things we need can wait; the child cannot. Now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made, his mind being developed. To him, we cannot say, tomorrow. His name is today."

Today, on the eve of Earth Day -- the day on which we pay tribute to the critical task of protecting our environment and our health -- we herald an important step by President Clinton and Vice President Gore to put those words into action, and to give children a healthier start in life.

It directs federal departments and agencies to step back from the normal regulatory, rulemaking and standard-setting process and ensure that, at the end of the day, our children are protected from environmental health risks and safety risks.

In so doing, it builds upon EPA's experience in addressing the unique challenges of protecting children from environmental health hazards -- most notably:

- Our 1995 requirement that every environmental standard we set includes an evaluation of specific and real-world risks to children.
- Our 1996 policy that all future EPA rulemakings put children first in protecting the public health.

- Our report last September providing a national assessment of environmental health threats to children -- as well as a national agenda for addressing these concerns.
- And, most recently, our creation of an EPA Office of Children's Health Protection.

In my dual responsibilities as the mother of a 9-year-old and as EPA administrator, I have become especially familiar how children suffer disproportionately from environmental hazards.

When you account for their size, children eat more of certain types of food, drink more fluids, and breathe more air than adults do. The youngest ones crawl on the floor or the ground. The older ones spend a lot of time outdoors. Thus, children are often more exposed to potentially harmful pollutants in the soil, around the house or in the air and water.

And despite all the progress we have made in environmental protection over the past quarter-century -- progress we will celebrate tomorrow on Earth Day -- there is still great cause for concern about what is happening to America's children.

We live in an era in which millions of children live near toxic waste dumps, in which 100,000 children a year accidentally ingest pesticides, and in which childhood asthma and cancer rates are on the increase.

Under these circumstances, doesn't it make sense that our government should do everything it possibly can to ensure that children are protected from these threats to their health and safety?

I thank the President and the Vice President for giving us this critical tool to carry out that responsibility. I look forward to working with Secretary Shalala to see that this executive order delivers on its promise. And I am delighted to turn the floor over to her.

Enhancing Protection of Children's Health

April 21, 1997

Vice President Gore today announced an executive order to reduce environmental health and safety risks to children. For the first time, federal agencies will be required to assign high priority to addressing these risks, to coordinate their research priorities on children's health, and to ensure that their standards take into account special risks to children.

Because children are still developing and because of they take in more food, water, and air relative to their body weight than adults, they are more susceptible than adults to environmental threats. In the past 25 years we have made great progress in protecting public health from environmental hazards, but we still have far to go: Asthma is now the leading cause of hospital admissions for children, 10 million children under the age of four still live within four miles of a toxic dump, and despite a steady decline in childhood lead poisoning, there are still nearly one million children under the age of five who suffer from this condition.

The executive order, which President Clinton signed today, includes the following actions:

- ***Strengthen Policies to Protect Children.*** The executive order requires all agencies to make the protection of children a high priority in implementing their statutory responsibilities and fulfilling their overall missions.
- ***Improve Research and other Initiatives to Protect Children.*** The proposed executive order would create an interagency task force to establish a coordinated research agenda, to identify research and other initiatives the Administration will take to advance the protection of children's environmental health and safety, and to enlist public input for these efforts. The Office of Management and Budget is charged with convening an Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, to produce an annual compendium of the most important indicators of the well being of the Nation's children.
- ***Ensure that New Safeguards Consider Special Risks to Children.*** The executive order would, for the first time, require agencies to analyze and explain the effects of their rules on children. When a major regulation addresses special risks to children, agencies would have to 1) consider disproportionate impacts on children; and 2) explain why their proposed action is preferable to other alternatives. The primary goal of this provision is to link policy decisions to the emerging science regarding children's environmental health and safety. This provision ensures accountability to the public and helps agencies identify their research needs.

Finally, and perhaps most important, this executive order will help us make sure that our policy decisions are linked to the latest science regarding children's health and safety.

If the success stories that we've already had -- the Safe Drinking Water Act and the new tobacco provisions, the NetDays and the Earth Days -- if those success stories teach us anything, it this: we are at our best when we work together. So let's work together to do right by our children. And let's make this -- the strongest nation in the world -- stronger and healthier still.

###

BACKGROUND

There is a growing body of evidence, highlighted by a 1993 study by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on the exposure of children to pesticides, demonstrating that children are at disproportionate risk from environmental health, and safety risks. The report also concludes that federal regulatory standards often fail to consider these risks fully.

These disproportionate risks stem from several fundamental differences between children and adults, in terms of physiology and activity. Children are still developing, and thus are neurologically and immunologically more susceptible to certain risks. Children eat, drink and breathe more for their weight, exposing them to greater amounts of contamination and pollution for their weight. Children are less able to protect themselves by use of judgment and skill (e.g. navigating traffic, reading and following warnings). Concurrent with their recognition of these factors, scientists have documented an alarming increase in the incidence of conditions in children that may be linked to environmental health and safety risks. These include childhood cancer, leukemia, and asthma, as well as childhood deaths and injuries from accidents.

President Clinton has taken bold action to respond to the challenge posed by this new science. President Clinton's initiatives resulted in explicit protection for children in the Food Quality Protection Act and Safe Drinking Water Act; development of new standards for passive restraints in cars that are more protective of children; and administrative action to protect children from tobacco, lead, and other hazards. Each of these initiatives responds to major threats to children that are of major concerns to American families.

These successes highlight the need for an overall, coordinated approach to children's issues that highlights their priority, coordinates federal research, and ensures that federal standards consistently account for disproportionate risks to children. Today's executive order, developed through extensive consultation with affected agencies, would fill this gap with provisions to address each of these areas.



Note to Correspondents

FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1996

President Clinton today signed the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996.

Attached are the White House press release on the signing, a fact sheet on the Act and a state-by-state breakdown of potential funds under the Act.

R-116

**John Kasper, Director
Press Services Division**

PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS LEGISLATION TO ENSURE AMERICANS SAFE DRINKING WATER

August 6, 1996

The President today will sign into law new legislation to ensure American families have clean, safe tap water. In his remarks, he will emphasize the fundamental importance of providing Americans with confidence that they have safe food and water. He will also highlight the bipartisan support for this bill which allows American families that security.

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 strengthens and expands the nation's drinking water protections. The new law is based on the Administration's 1993 reform proposal including a drinking water treatment loan fund and protection for drinking water sources. *See attached fact sheet.*

Today's bill signing builds on Administration actions to protect our families by keeping our food and water supply as safe as possible.

- Today's bill reflects improvements that the Clinton Administration has called for since September 1993.
- Last week, the President signed the Food Quality Protection Act, which updated the standards for pesticide use in our food, making our food supply safer.
- President Clinton by executive order and through administrative actions strengthened and expanded the Community Right to Know law, which gives the public information about toxic releases and requires polluters to disclose that information to the public.
- Last year the Administration put in place strong new protections to ensure that seafood is safe.
- Last month, President Clinton announced steps to revamp our meat and poultry inspection system for the first time in 90 years.

The following is the program for the event:

- EPA Administrator Carol Browner makes remarks.
- Diana Neidle, safe drinking water activist, makes remarks.
- The President makes remarks.

-30-30-30-

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SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT WILL PROVIDE STRONGER PROTECTIONS FOR COMMUNITIES

A new safe drinking water law will provide strengthened protections to ensure that American families have clean, safe tap water -- improvements that the Clinton Administration has called for since September 1993, when the Administration announced key reform proposals for the Safe Drinking Water Act. The new law is based on provisions in the Administration's 1993 reform proposal, including a drinking water treatment loan fund and protections for drinking water sources. The new law will strengthen and expand the nation's drinking water protections in four important ways:

- **Giving the American people the right to know about tap water contaminants:** The Clinton Administration proposed improvements in consumer information about local tap water in 1995. The Administration actively supported strong requirements now in the new law that will make more information public than ever before, giving Americans access to direct, simple information -- sent directly to their homes in water utility bills -- about local water quality, contaminants, water sources, and whether the water poses a risk to health.
- **Strengthening standards to protect public health from the most significant threats to safe drinking water:** The new law will strengthen standards that will protect Americans from contaminants that pose the greatest health risks -- a principle already embraced in the President's budget. The law sets clear schedules for developing standards for deadly microbial contaminants like cryptosporidium, and calls for considering special populations such as the elderly, children, people with HIV/AIDS, and others when standards are set, to ensure stronger health protection. The law also mandates technical assistance to help water systems nationwide do a better job of delivering safe, clean water.
- **Providing money that communities need to upgrade drinking water systems:** The new law authorizes up to \$9.6 billion in loan funds that would go straight to the states to upgrade drinking water treatment systems in communities nationwide through the year 2003; the funds are contingent upon future appropriations actions by the Congress. In 1993, the President for the first time ever proposed establishing a loan fund for safe drinking water. President Clinton has proposed a total of \$2.3 billion for this purpose in his budget request since FY94.
- **Protecting the sources of our drinking water:** The Clinton Administration has long called for measures to prevent pollution of drinking water sources *before* they become contaminated. The Administration has acted to protect many water sources, including the Great Lakes -- which provide drinking water for 23 million Americans -- and the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, which supplies drinking water to 2/3 of all Californians. The new law calls for identifying and assessing potential pollution threats to local sources of water; it also provides states with a flexible, common-sense framework to develop and fund local projects to protect the rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater that serve as the sources of our nation's tap water.

Safe Drinking Water Loans: Potential Funds for States

In 1993, President Clinton proposed the first Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund to help states and communities across America upgrade aging drinking water systems to provide safe, clean water. The new Safe Drinking Water Act establishes that fund by authorizing \$9.6 billion through the year 2003, but Congress must still appropriate the necessary monies. Once Congress acts, the following potential amounts would become available to states in FY97, based on the current allocation formula:

Alabama	\$12,458,800	Ohio	\$42,727,900
Alaska	\$26,822,700	Oklahoma	\$17,421,700
Arizona	\$16,803,100	Oregon	\$18,769,400
Arkansas	\$12,458,800	Pennsylvania	\$52,843,700
California	\$75,075,600	Puerto Rico	\$12,458,800
Colorado	\$16,650,200	Rhode Island	\$12,458,800
Connecticut	\$21,237,100	South Carolina	\$14,703,400
Delaware	\$12,458,800	South Dakota	\$12,458,800
DC	\$12,458,800	Tennessee	\$12,674,500
Florida	\$44,771,000	Texas	\$69,591,200
Georgia	\$25,568,900	Utah	\$12,458,800
Hawaii	\$12,458,800	Vermont	\$12,458,800
Idaho	\$14,045,000	Virginia	\$29,206,800
Illinois	\$38,194,100	Washington	\$30,896,600
Indiana	\$25,506,500	West Virginia	\$12,458,800
Iowa	\$16,722,700	Wisconsin	\$41,213,500
Kansas	\$13,982,600	Wyoming	\$12,458,800
Kentucky	\$12,458,800		
Louisiana	\$20,257,100	Other jurisdictions*	\$ 4,152,900
Maine	\$12,552,500	Indian Land	\$19,125,000
Maryland	\$17,500,000	Research	\$10,000,000
Massachusetts	\$14,230,200		
Michigan	\$59,202,600		
Minnesota	\$41,748,800		
Mississippi	\$16,342,800		
Missouri	\$21,682,900		
Montana	\$14,708,000		
Nebraska	\$12,721,900		
Nevada	\$12,458,800		
New Hampshire	\$13,645,200		
New Jersey	\$27,723,700		
New Mexico	\$12,658,200		
New York	\$58,693,400		
North Carolina	\$45,744,600		
North Dakota	\$12,458,800		
		TOTAL	\$1,275,000,000

* Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and Pacific Trust Territories.



Environmental News

FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1996

Attached is a statement by the President on Senate passage of the Food Quality Protection

Act.

R-109.

**John Kasper, Director
Press Services Division**

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 28, 1996

Statement by the President

I am pleased that the Senate tonight passed the Food Quality Protection Act.

Americans have every right to expect the world's most bountiful food supply will also be the world's safest. Earlier this month, I announced tough new measures to improve meat and poultry safety. Meeting goals I set early in my Administration to strengthen our pesticide laws, this legislation is another major step forward. It puts in place a strong health-based standard, provides special safeguards for children, and protects our health and safety using the best science available. This bill demonstrates how Congress and the Administration can work together to help farmers and consumers, and I look forward to signing it.

###

NEW FOOD SAFETY LAW PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE OVERHAUL OF NATIONAL HEALTH PROTECTIONS

The new food safety law will provide a **comprehensive overhaul to strengthen the nation's food safety system** that regulates pesticides on foods -- reforms that the Clinton Administration has urged since 1993. These reforms will replace the current system, resulting in protections that will ensure health and safety for American families in three important ways:

- **A more protective, more stringent health-based standard to increase protection from pesticide exposure:** The new law provides a stronger, health-based standard to be applied across the board, for all pesticide uses on all foods. The Delaney clause in the existing law only dealt with cancer-causing pesticide residues on processed food. The new law will replace the existing system that provided inconsistent protection because it applied different standards for different types of foods. All pesticide residue levels will be required to meet the new standard; older pesticides will be reviewed to ensure they meet updated standards; and safer substitutes will be approved faster so they can reach the market sooner, replacing older pesticides that may pose greater health risks. The new, more stringent law will apply across the board, so that American families will be assured of more comprehensive protection from any pesticides, on any food they buy.
- **Special new provisions to protect the health of infants and children from pesticide risks:** Several provisions in the new law will specifically protect infants and children from pesticide health risks -- measures that will carry out the key recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences in its 1993 report on "Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children." The law requires an explicit determination that the allowable levels of pesticide residues on food are safe for children; if evidence of safety is uncertain, allowable levels will err on the side of child safety, providing as much as ten times more protection. The law also will require EPA to consider children's special sensitivity and exposure to chemicals when setting pesticide limits. Arguments about the economic benefits of a pesticide could not be used to override limits based on protections for children. Regulators will be able to limit the amount of risk that pesticides pose to a child in any one year -- an important child-protection step, since many young children eat the same fresh foods in large amounts than adults do, putting them at greater risk.
- **New measures to expand consumers' right-to-know about pesticide health risks:** To ensure that Americans have both comprehensive health protection and the tools they need to protect themselves from pesticide risks, the law includes special right-to-know provisions that will provide more public information than ever before about risks from pesticides on foods. The law requires distribution of health information about pesticides on food -- with information about how consumers can avoid those health risks -- in major food stores nationwide. In addition, the law gives EPA new authority to require chemical manufacturers to disclose information about their pesticide products, beyond the requirements in existing laws. A specific provision will allow EPA to require manufacturers to provide information about the possible health effects pesticides may have on reproductive and developmental health.



Environmental News

FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1997

EPA ANNOUNCES COMPREHENSIVE PLANS FOR PROTECTING FOOD SAFETY, REGULATING PESTICIDES UNDER THE 1996 FOOD QUALITY PROTECTION ACT

AL HEIER 202-260-4374

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today issued a comprehensive, detailed plan for implementing the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). The new law includes sweeping new food safety protections and requires major changes in how pesticides are regulated, with the goal of improving environmental and public health protection, especially for children.

"The Food Quality Protection Act is one of the most significant pieces of legislation enacted in the past two decades," said EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner. "We are committed to providing greater assurance that infants and children are protected from pesticide risks, expanding the public right-to-know about pesticides, and using the best available science in reaching our regulatory decisions as we carry out this important new law."

The FQPA Implementation Plan is based on five guiding principles that will govern the Agency's actions: sound science; a protective, health-based approach to food safety; promotion of safer, effective pest control methods; an open, fair and consistent process that involves consultation with stakeholders and an informed public; and public accountability of EPA's actions and resources to achieve the goals of the law.

The major provisions of the new law include:

- o Establishing a single, health-based standard for all pesticide residues in food, whether raw or processed; --
- o Providing for a more thorough assessment of potential risks, with special protections for potentially sensitive populations, such as infants and children;
- o Requiring EPA to reassess roughly 9,000 existing tolerances (maximum legally permissible residue levels in food) to ensure they meet the new standard;

- o Requiring EPA to develop consumer information, to be displayed in grocery stores, on the risks and benefits of pesticides used in or on food, as well as recommendations to consumers for reducing dietary exposure to pesticides while maintaining a healthy diet; and
- o Ensuring that all pesticides will be periodically re-evaluated to make sure they meet current testing and safety standards.

Among the major reforms of FQPA are requirements that EPA routinely address a number of new considerations in establishing tolerances for pesticide residues in food. Many of these new provisions raise complex scientific issues and call for new policies and evaluation methods. EPA has already brought a number of these issues before expert scientific review panels and will continue to consult with these expert bodies as implementation proceeds. Specifically, FQPA requires EPA to:

- use an extra safety factor in conducting risk assessments to assure the protection of infants and children;
- assess total pesticide exposure from all non-occupational sources including through the diet, in drinking water, and as a result of household pesticide use;
- assess effects of exposure to multiple pesticides with a common mechanism of toxicity;
- assess effects of in utero exposure; and
- assess potential effects on the endocrine system.

"The FQPA calls for a comprehensive overhaul of pesticide policies and we are working with leading scientists and other interested groups to update and reinvent our procedures and scientific approaches as called for by this law," said Dr. Lynn Goldman, EPA Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances. "In the meantime, we must continue to make decisions and move ahead. We have adopted interim measures to ensure that decisions meet the new requirements of the law, including decisions on new pesticide registrations and the establishment of new tolerances for residues in food."

Soon after FQPA was enacted, EPA convened a broadly representative, high level Food Safety Advisory Committee to advise the Agency on strategic implementation issues. The Committee met in public sessions four times and concluded its work in December. EPA also established a new Endocrine Disruptors Screening and Testing Advisory Committee which met in December and February. This group is working to develop a chemical screening and testing

program to assess potential estrogenic and other hormonal effects as required by FQPA and the Safe Drinking Water Amendments of 1996. EPA is also continuing to consult with the ongoing Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee, including the formation of a working group to address such major new efforts on the development of consumer right-to-know information on pesticides for display in retail stores.

Since the FQPA was passed in August 1996, relying on the interim strategy released earlier this year, the Agency has registered six new conventional pesticides active ingredients (two of which are reduced risk products), 10 new biological pesticides and one new anti-microbial pesticide. EPA has also granted 52 emergency exemptions requested by the states facing critical pest control needs to deal with pest outbreaks that could not be controlled by currently registered products.

The Implementation Plan and additional information on FQPA and its implementation are available through the Office of Pesticide Programs Public Docket located at 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Va., Rm. 1132; telephone: 703-305-5805. Information is also posted on the Internet: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/lawsregs.htm>.

Reporters can obtain a copy of the plan by calling Al Heier at 202-260-4374. Others should call the Office of Pesticide Programs at 703-305-5017.

R-42

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Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1996

EPA PROPOSES AIR STANDARDS FOR PARTICULATE MATTER AND OZONE

Dave Ryan 202-260-2981

Based on evidence of harm to human health and the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today proposed new national air quality standards for particulate matter (soot) and ground-level ozone (smog).

Because of the significance of the proposal, EPA will seek broad public comment on its recommended approach and on the need for any changes to the particulate matter and ozone proposal. The purpose of the comment period is to reach out to all stakeholders in order to obtain the best information available for determining the appropriate final standards.

"In the Clean Air Act, Congress required EPA to review and incorporate the best available science into public health standards to protect Americans from air pollution," said EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner. "The EPA proposal would provide new protection to nearly 133 million Americans, including 40 million children. We will use the very best science to do what is necessary to protect public health in common-sense, cost-effective ways."

Particulate matter (PM), or soot, comes largely from combustion from sources like power plants or large incinerators. Ozone is primarily the haze of chemicals from car exhausts and smoke-stack emissions that shrouds many cities on hot summer days.

EPA and a board of independent scientists have reviewed 86 PM-related human-health studies, covering millions of people, that showed harmful effects from breathing particles at the current standard. The proposed standard, along with clean air programs already planned, would reduce premature deaths by 40,000 per year, and reduce serious respiratory problems in children by 250,000 cases per year.

Another 185 of the latest ozone-related studies on human health also were reviewed. All of them showed harmful effects from ozone at the current standard, including more than 1.5 million incidences a year of significant respiratory problems, such as loss of lung capacity and exacerbation of both childhood and adult asthma. In addition to threatening health, ozone and PM can damage agricultural crops, and diminish visibility in national parks, in some cases by as much as 77 percent.

Browner said, "EPA has based its proposal on a thorough review of the best available science. We are now hoping to hear from a wide range of the American people, from scientists and environmentalists to industry experts, small business owners, doctors and parents, to receive the broadest possible public comment and input on this important issue."

-more-

The PM standard currently calls for regulation of particles the size of 10 microns or smaller (PM-10) in concentrations of 50 micrograms per cubic meter annually and 150 micrograms per cubic meter daily. The proposed PM standard calls for 2.5 microns or smaller (PM 2.5) in concentrations of 15 micrograms per cubic meter annually and 50 micrograms per cubic meter daily. EPA today also proposed maintaining the current standards for PM-10 so that larger, coarse particles would continue to be regulated. The current ozone standard is .12 parts per million measured over one hour. EPA's proposed standard calls for .08 parts per million measured over eight hours. EPA also is seeking comment on several other options, including an ozone concentration of .09 parts per million measured over eight hours, as well as a range of ozone concentrations from .07 parts per million measured over eight hours to .12 parts per million measured over one hour, the current standard. On both proposed standards, EPA has also specified the way in which attainment of these standards would be measured.

EPA believes that the standards being proposed are consistent with the work of the independent scientists on the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee, which is part of EPA's long-standing Science Advisory Board. EPA will be taking comment on the scientific evidence during the comment period.

Browner today also expanded the membership and the mandate of an implementation advisory committee, to ensure that any plans to carry out the standards will include the advice and participation of state and local governments, industry, small business and environmental groups in order to identify common-sense, cost-effective options for implementation of the standards.

Plans to meet any finalized standards would be due in 2002 for PM, and in 2000 for ozone control strategies. Deadlines for achieving full compliance would occur several years thereafter for both types of pollution.

Congress specifically named six air pollutants under the Clean Air Act to be regulated by EPA's national air quality standards. They are ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead. Congress directed that such standards should be reviewed at least every five years by EPA to keep up with current science, and that proposals to revise them should be based solely upon the best current scientific opinion on public health effects, not economic impacts. Since initially setting standards in the early 1970s, EPA has changed the standards only twice: Once, in 1979, and once in 1987. During the Bush Administration, a decision was made not to review the current science regarding the health effects of ozone.

There is a 60-day comment period on the proposal. Once a final regulation is issued in June 1997, it will be among the first major environmental rules reviewed by Congress under the new Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act.

Today's action will appear soon in the Federal Register, but will be computer-accessible earlier through EPA's electronic bulletin board system, the Technology Transfer Network (TTN) at <http://www.epa.gov/airlinks>. The TTN can be reached at 919-541-5742 (backup number for access problems is 919-541-5384). The notice will appear on the TTN's Clean Air Act Amendments Bulletin Board under "Recently Signed Rules." For further technical information, contact Jeff Clark of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at 919-541-5557.

Every American adult breathes in 13,000 liters of air each day, on average, and children breathe in 50 percent more air per pound of body weight than adults do -- making public health protection from harmful air pollutants a top priority. As required by Congress in the Clean Air Act, EPA has reviewed and proposed new standards to reduce two of the most widespread forms of harmful air pollution -- **particulate matter and ground-level ozone (smog)**. Taken together, they contribute to acute health effects ranging from premature deaths to preventable respiratory problems. Following are facts about these types of pollution, related health effects, and results expected from the new proposed standards, if they are finalized in their current form:

Particulate Matter: Particulate matter is a mix of coarse and fine particles that can't be seen individually by the naked eye, but often appear as haze, dust clouds or sooty emissions. Sources of coarse particles include industrial crushing and grinding operations, materials handling, vehicle travel on unpaved roads and windblown dust. Fine particles result from industrial, motor vehicle and power generating fuel combustion, as well as burning wood and brush. Pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds also can form fine particles.

Effect on Public Health: Fine particles can penetrate deep into the lungs. On a smoggy day, a single breath can take in millions of fine particles. Some 74 million Americans -- 28% of the population -- are regularly exposed to harmful levels of particulate air pollution. In recent studies, exposure to fine particle air pollution -- either alone or with other air pollutants -- has been linked with many health problems:

- **An estimated 40,000 Americans die prematurely each year, according to peer-reviewed studies, from respiratory illness and heart attacks linked with particle exposure, particularly elderly people;**
- **Children and adults experience aggravated asthma. Asthma in children increased 118% between 1980 and 1993, and it is currently the leading cause of child hospital admissions;**
- **Children become ill more frequently and experience increased respiratory problems, including difficult and painful breathing; and**
- **Hospital admissions, emergency room visits and premature deaths increase among adults with heart disease, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and other heart and lung diseases.**

Increased Public Health Protections from EPA Proposal: The current standard covers reductions of coarse particles of 10 microns in diameter. If finalized in its current form, EPA's proposal would increase public health protection by helping to reduce fine particles of 2.5 microns in diameter, as well as coarse particle pollution. This approach was recommended by an overwhelming majority of independent scientists who reviewed the standard for EPA, based on 86 new health studies that indicate the need for a stronger standard. If finalized as proposed, the new standard would:

- **Cut premature deaths linked with particulate air pollution by 50%, or approximately 20,000 deaths; with acid rain controls currently underway, an additional 20,000 deaths will be avoided;**
- **Reduce aggravated asthma episodes by more than a quarter million cases each year;**
- **Reduce incidence of acute childhood respiratory problems by more than a quarter million occurrences each year, including aggravated coughing and painful breathing;**
- **Reduce chronic bronchitis by an estimated 60,000 cases each year;**
- **Reduce hospital admissions due to respiratory problems by 9,000 each year, as well as reduce emergency room visits and overall childhood illnesses in general; and**
- **Cut haze and visibility problems by as much as 77% in some areas, such as national parks.**

Ground-level Ozone: Ground-level ozone — the prime ingredient in smog in our cities — is easily formed in the atmosphere, usually during hot weather. Smog results from a reaction between such gases as nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds that are emitted from motor vehicles and a wide range of industrial air pollutants. Ozone also makes plants more susceptible to diseases and pests, and reduces agricultural crop yields for many economically vital crops such as wheat, cotton, soybeans and kidney beans.

Effect on Public Health: Studies show that repeated exposure to ozone pollution for several months may cause permanent structural damage to the lungs, a serious issue for the 122 million Americans — 46% of the population — who are regularly exposed to harmful levels of ozone pollution. Because ozone pollution usually forms in hot weather, anyone who spends time outdoors in the summer is at risk, particularly children, moderate exercisers, and outdoor workers. Even when inhaled at very low levels, ground-level ozone prompts a variety of health problems:

- **Children and adults experience aggravated asthma;**
- **Healthy adults' lung capacity is temporarily reduced by 15 to 20 percent;**
- **Hospital admissions and emergency room visits increase.** In the northeastern U.S., 10 to 20 percent of all summertime hospital visits for respiratory problems are linked with ozone pollution;
- **Lung tissues are inflamed, and acute respiratory problems develop; and**
- **Immune defenses are reduced, leaving people more susceptible to respiratory illness, including pneumonia and bronchitis.**

Increased Public Health Protections from EPA Proposal: Because it has not been revised since 1979, and because current science indicates that many Americans still appear to be at risk from ozone pollution, EPA is proposing to revise the standard to provide increased health protection. If finalized in its current form, the new proposal would reduce ground-level ozone concentrations from .12 parts per million measured over one hour to .08 parts per million measured over eight hours, and change to a more accurate measurement that will better reflect the actual health effects of ozone. This approach was reviewed by a panel of independent scientists and based on 185 new health studies. If finalized in its current form, the new proposal is expected to:

- **Result in over 1.5 million fewer cases of significant breathing problems (those where lung function is reduced up to 20%);**
- **Significantly reduce the need for hospital admissions, missed school and work days, restricted activity, and emergency room visits for respiratory problems;**
- **Cut illness in children overall, and reduce conditions ranging from inflamed lungs to irreversible lung damage in children;**
- **Reduce episodes when asthmatic children require medication or medical treatment; and**
- **Reduce by nearly \$1 billion agricultural crop losses caused by ozone.**

Scientific Review Process for Proposed Air Quality Standards

EPA's proposals to revise the standards for ozone and fine particle pollution are based on a scientific review required by Congress under the Clean Air Act, which mandates that the EPA Administrator determine every five years whether the nation's air quality standards are adequate to protect public health. Following is the scientific review process that led to EPA's proposals:

Broad Range of Peer-Reviewed Scientific Evidence Examined:

- To review the health standards for ozone and fine particle pollution, EPA began by **conducting a wide-ranging literature search, covering all aspects of ozone and particulate pollution.** The Agency then selected for review those studies relevant to human health effects.
- Over three years, EPA and two independent scientific review panels **identified 185 studies on the human health effects of ozone pollution and 86 studies on the links between particulate matter pollution and human health.** Studies examined included controlled human studies, epidemiological studies, and toxicological studies.
- A broad range of studies reviewed indicated that **the current standards for both ozone pollution and particulate pollution do not adequately protect public health, as required by law.** The studies show that serious health effects would occur even if the current standards were being met, indicating the need for stronger health protection.

EPA Relied on Independent, Peer Reviewed Scientific Research:

- Under the Clean Air Act, Congress requires EPA to rely on the advice of an **independent scientific review panel, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, made up of nationally recognized experts in a wide range of disciplines -- physicians, toxicologists, epidemiologists, and atmospheric scientists -- from academic research, industry and the states.** Two panels were assembled, one for each type of pollution.
- A review document summarizing published, peer reviewed research on both types of pollution and their health effects was prepared for the advisory panel. A separate panel of national scientific experts then peer-reviewed individual chapters in the summary document before the advisory panel began its review.
- The scientific advisory panels supported EPA's basic findings, supporting the conclusion that a proposal to revise the ozone standard should be made to reflect the health consequences of more prolonged exposures, and endorsing the range of ozone concentrations EPA considered. The vast majority of panel members agreed on establishing a new standard for fine particle pollution.

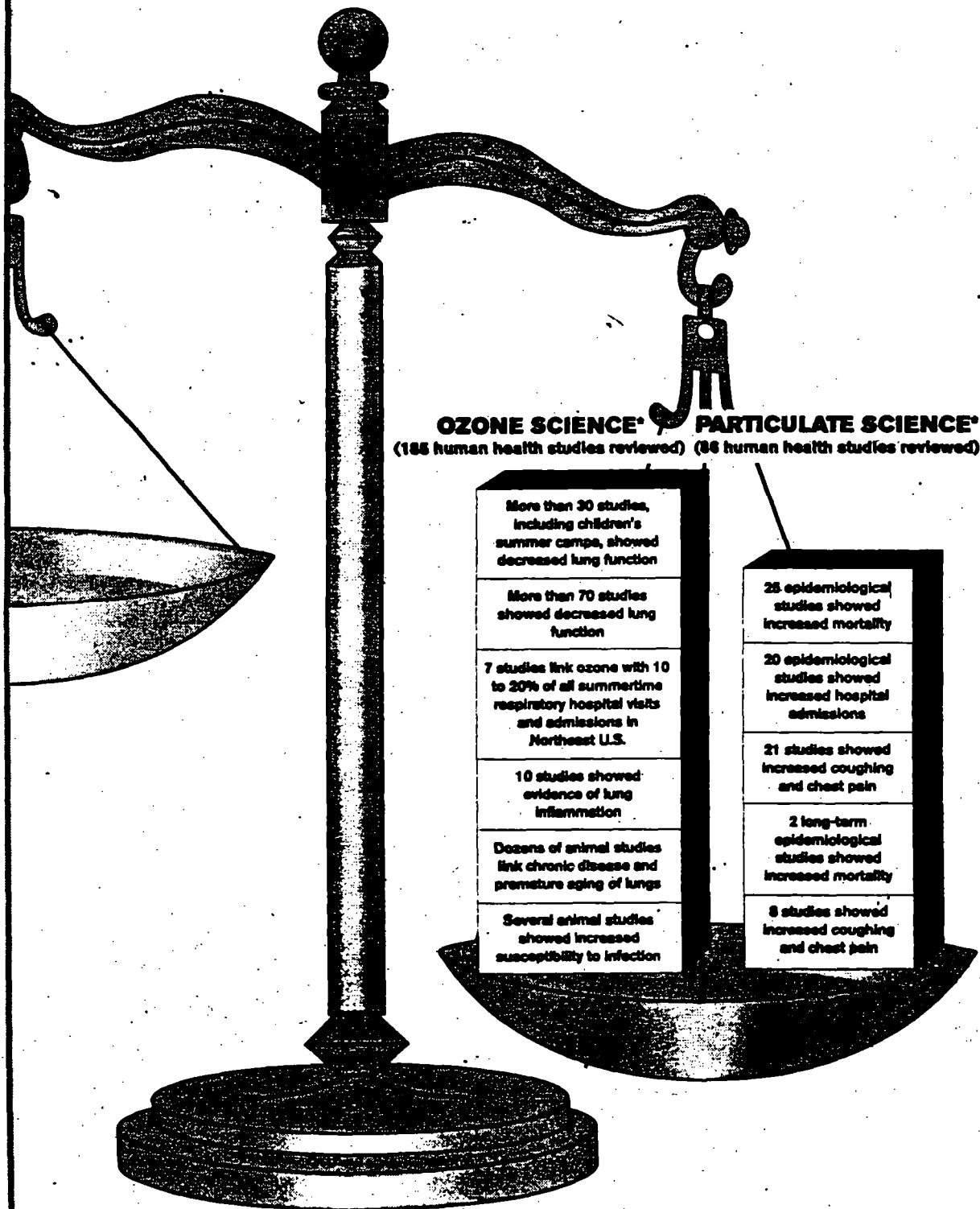
EPA Opens Extensive Public Comment Period on New Proposals

- EPA has launched a **60-day public comment period on the proposed new standards as well as the scientific evidence supporting them.** In addition, the review process has been a public one, with scientific advisory panel meetings open to the public, and all review documents publicly available prior to panel meetings.

ANNUAL HEALTH BENEFITS OF PROPOSED STANDARDS

- **20,000 fewer premature deaths**
- **250,000 fewer cases of
aggravated asthma**
- **250,000 fewer incidences of acute
childhood respiratory problems**
- **60,000 fewer cases of bronchitis**
- **9,000 fewer hospital admissions**
- **1.5 million fewer cases of significant
breathing problems**

THE SCIENCE SUPPORTS MORE PROTECTIVE STANDARDS





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Carol M. Browner
Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Remarks Prepared for Delivery
Town Hall in Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California
April 24, 1997

On Tuesday of this week, for the 28th time, Americans celebrated Earth Day.

The first Earth Day, in 1970, was one of the largest demonstrations of public opinion in the history of our country. It was a day on which 20 million Americans stood up to say: "We must save our natural heritage. We must save our environment."

Today, one of the highlights of Earth Day is taking stock of the great progress we have made over the past quarter-century in protecting public health and the environment.

Few examples of that progress are as compelling as the air you breathe right here in Los Angeles -- and the determination of your community to make it safer and more healthy.

In 1970 alone, Los Angeles had "stage one" smog alerts on 148 days. Last year, you had seven. The "smog season" -- which used to last more than six months -- has been virtually cut in half. Last year, Los Angeles recorded its fewest number of non-attainment days since we started keeping records.

That's progress. And it's due in no small measure to your determination to work together -- industry, government, communities, citizens -- to confront one of the toughest environmental problems in the country. Your efforts have made California the only state in the country with an EPA-approved attainment plan for smog.

Your heavy industry is the cleanest anywhere. You have the cleanest cars and the cleanest gasoline. You've made a huge difference and you have every right to be proud of what you have accomplished here in L.A.

On that note, let me pay special tribute to the South Coast Air Quality Management District -- its leadership and staff -- on the occasion of your 50th anniversary.

While Earth Day is about celebrating progress, it is also a time to recognize that our job is not done -- that we still face tremendous environmental and public health challenges.

Forty percent of our rivers, lakes, and streams are still not suitable for fishing or swimming.

Millions of Americans get their drinking water from systems that violate public health standards.

One in four Americans -- including 10 million children -- still live within four miles of a toxic dump site.

Many scientists suspect that environmental factors are at least partly to blame for the steady increase over the last two decades of the most common types of childhood cancer.

Clearly, the job is not done.

That is why President Clinton and his administration are determined to create a new generation of environmental and public health protection -- one that builds on past achievements and meets the challenges of the next century.

For example, this week, the President directing federal agencies to give children -- and the unique environmental threats they face -- an extra measure of attention in the regulatory process.

The President also issued new rules expanding the right of Americans to know about toxic substances that are being released into their air, land and water. We believe that people know what's best for their own communities and, given the facts, they themselves will determine what is best to protect public health and the environment.

When it comes to air pollution, you know that the job is not done -- that L.A. still has a long way to go to the goal of air that is healthy to breathe.

What's more, EPA is now proposing to strengthen the national ambient air quality standards for soot and smog.

Some have asked "why?" -- why tighten the standards when many areas are only now making progress toward meeting the current standards for these pollutants? Indeed, some in industry have vigorously objected to our proposal and have waged an expensive public campaign against them. Some, I'm afraid, have gone beyond the pale -- branding EPA as "extremist" and using scare tactics about intolerable lifestyle changes that these proposed standards would force on the American people.

What they have been saying is false. It is wrong. It is manipulative. And it is nothing more than an attempt to divert the nation from the real issue -- which is protecting the public health.

And that brings up some interesting questions: Where matters of public health are concerned, how much weight should be given to vested interests? How much say should industry have in the setting of air quality standards?

Fortunately, the Clean Air Act provides some answers.

Born under President Nixon, amended and strengthened under Presidents Carter and Bush, the Clean Air Act is the embodiment of an ongoing, bipartisan desire to protect all Americans from the harmful effects of breathing polluted air.

From the beginning, the Act has contemplated the march of technology and science. It has recognized that science will always come up with better ways to understand the health effects of the air we breathe -- and that the standards of the 1970s may not be right for the 21st Century. And it anticipated that some in industry -- some with vested interests in the status quo, some that may not want to reduce their pollution of the public's air -- might not agree with the conclusions of the scientific and public health communities.

Therefore, Congress set forth a process to ensure that the standards would be set and, if necessary, revised in a manner that puts the public health first and ensures that Americans are protected with an adequate margin of safety.

First, the Clean Air Act directs EPA to review the public health standards for the six major air pollutants at least every five years, in order to ensure that they reflect the best current science. It also lays out a specific procedure to obtain that science and, if needed, revise the standards. This is to ensure that we never get to the point where the government tells Americans that their air is healthy to breathe, when, in fact, it is not.

Next, the process requires that EPA's standard-setting work and the underlying health studies -- some 250 of them in this case -- be independently reviewed by a panel of scientists and technical experts from academia, research institutes, public health organizations and industry. The ozone and particulate matter scientific panels, over a four-year period, conducted 11 meetings, all open to the public -- a total of 124 hours of public discussion of the scientific data, research and the studies of the health effects of smog and soot.

EPA has held further public meetings, at which hundreds of representatives from industry, state and local governments, organizations -- as well as members of the public -- have offered their views. In fact, we recently closed the most extensive scientific review and public outreach process ever conducted by EPA for developing a public health standard.

We are now in the process of analyzing and considering the submitted comments and, after doing so, we will set final public health standards. Congress then has its say and may vote up-or-down on EPA's health standards.

As many of you know, members of Congress have been watching this process very closely. And Congress does have a review process for these kinds of regulations. It is a good process -- as long as it is carried out responsibly, looks at all the facts, and judges them in the best interests of all Americans. When looking at these air standards, I hope Congress will review all of the scientific analysis. I hope they will study the entire body of evidence.

EPA did look at the evidence -- all of it published, peer-reviewed and fully debated health studies -- literally peer review of peer review of peer review. The independent scientific panel looked at it, too.

We have studies linking smog to nearly one in three hospital admissions on days when ozone levels were at or below the current U.S. standard. We have studies linking it with lung damage equal to more than half that of a pack-a-day smoker. We have inhalation-chamber studies showing breathing problems in young adults simulating routine outdoor construction work at ozone levels equal to the current standard. We have a summer camp study that found consistent loss of lung function in children at levels below the current standard.

For particulate matter, we have a study based on personal health diaries collected by the American Cancer Society that tracked 300,000 Americans in 50 cities and found that the risk of early death is 15 to 17 percent higher in areas where levels of fine particulates are highest. Another study, published in 1993 in the New England Journal of Medicine, showed that exposure to fine particulates in the air increases the risk of early death by 26 percent and, in the most polluted cities, shortens individual lives by an average of one to two years. Still another showed that air with higher soot levels was directly associated with higher numbers of elderly people going to the hospital for respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses.

And these studies represent only a small part of the overwhelming body of independently-reviewed evidence which tells us that the current standards for smog and for soot are not sufficient to protect the public's health with an adequate margin of safety. Serious health effects are occurring in children, the elderly and other sensitive populations at particulate matter and ozone concentrations at and below existing standards. That is why we have recommended strengthening those standards.

Let me give you some other facts:

Lung disease is the third leading cause of death in this country -- killing an estimated 335,000 Americans each year.

Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children. Nearly five million kids have it, along with nearly 10 million adults. Asthma is now the leading cause of hospital admissions for children. And deaths from asthma attacks among children and young people more than doubled between 1980 and 1993.

In 1993 alone, asthma killed 342 Americans under age 25 and sent nearly 200,000 for a stay in the hospital.

No less than the American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that pediatricians make parents aware of the daily variations in ozone and -- when ozone levels are high -- keep their kids indoors.

Let me turn for a moment to the potential costs of EPA's proposed standards.

We do consider costs. We take our responsibility to do that very seriously. But the law does not, and should not, allow us to consider costs at this critical public health stage of the process. The Clean Air Act clearly requires levels of smog and soot to be based solely on health, risk, exposure and damage to the environment, as determined by the best available science -- and not projected costs for reducing pollution.

This is no accident. In the 1970 Clean Air Act debate, Congress deliberated the issue of cost -- as well as the technical feasibility of meeting clean air standards. At the time, there was a great deal of frustration that putting cost considerations first was preventing any real progress toward cleaner air. I suspect that comes as no surprise to those of you who lived here and breathed L.A.'s air back then.

Thus, the decision was made -- the public health must come first. The current best science must prevail in determining the level of protection the public will be guaranteed. Nothing else can take precedence.

This issue has been revisited each time the Clean Air Act has been amended -- in 1977 and again in 1990. And, each time, Congress and the President have come down firmly on the side of the public health first and foremost. That has been the history for the past quarter-century.

Not only does the law forbid us from considering the costs in setting these standards, but history and real experience tell us we'd be foolish to try.

Almost every time we have begun the process to set or revise air standards, the costs of doing so have been grossly overstated -- by both industry and EPA. Dire predictions of economic chaos -- always a part of the clean air debate -- have never come to pass.

Why? Because industry always ultimately rises to the challenge -- again and again -- finding cheaper, more innovative ways of meeting standards -- and lowering their pollution.

Can it be done again? Of course it can.

Here in Los Angeles -- where you've faced the toughest air pollution challenges in the country -- and you are leading the way to cleaner air. You are showing that environmental protection and economic progress go hand-in-hand.

The partnership is working. It is a model for America.

And when you think of how far Los Angeles has come in this process, to borrow the words of a song about a city on the other coast, "if we can make it there, we can make it anywhere."

And, if these new standards are adopted, EPA will work with all who are affected -- state governments, local governments, community leaders, businesses large and small -- here and elsewhere -- to find cost-effective and common sense strategies for reducing pollution and providing the public health protections. That is part of the process, too.

So as the debate over air standards rages on, I would ask that you ask yourselves the following question: "Have we reached the point where we should abandon our commitment to a public health standard for air pollution?"

I believe the answer is no. Americans want clean air. They want the public health to come first. They want their children protected. They want EPA to do its job -- which is ensuring that the air they breathe is safe and healthy. They want government to be honest about when the air is unhealthy. And they have every right to expect that industry will rise to the occasion, meet the challenges, and once again reduce their pollution of the public's air.

Clearly, this is a vital issue of tremendous importance to millions of American families. And I think that, in this debate, we all have a responsibility to stick to the facts. No more scare tactics. The public health is too important to be decided on trumped up, exaggerated charges put forth by some in industry who might be required to take steps to reduce air pollution.

Let us listen to science. Let us respond as we have before. Let us work together toward common ground -- not only on this particular issue, but on all environmental and public health issues -- to improve the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land on which we all live.

Let us do it for our children.

Thank you, and I am happy to answer your questions.



Note to Correspondents

FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1997

EARTH DAY 1997: EPA EXPANDS RIGHT-TO-KNOW DATA TO INCLUDE MORE INDUSTRIES, MORE INFORMATION

Delivering on President Clinton's 1995 commitment to expand industry reporting of community right-to-know information, EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner today is signing a final rule, proposed in June 1996, that -- for the first time ever -- increases by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to make public the levels of toxic chemicals they release into the air, water and land in communities across America under the community right-to-know program. The new Clinton Administration requirement calls for approximately 6,100 new facilities -- in seven industrial sectors -- to begin reporting on toxic releases in local communities, so that a total of over 31,000 facilities will now report toxic emissions to the public, community by community, providing new information on local pollution to tens of millions of Americans.

Browner said, "Today's announcement by the President is a huge step for the American people's right to know what is in the air they breathe, the water they drink and the land on which they live. By strengthening and expanding the Toxics Release Inventory, the President has provided American families with a critical tool for making their neighborhoods cleaner, safer and healthier in the 21st Century."

Attached for your information is a fact sheet on the new right-to-know reporting requirements, and an Earth Day list of Clinton Administration accomplishments in environmental and public health protection. For more information, call Denise Kearns at 202-260-4376.

R-61

**John Kasper, Director
Press Services Division**

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE EXPAND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW

To Keep Citizens Informed, Involved on Local Pollution Issues

April 22, 1997

"People do have a right to know that their air and their water are safe."

- President Clinton

State of the Union Address, 1/23/96

Community right-to-know information is vital to citizens who want to be informed and involved in issues related to local pollution. The Clinton Administration believes that putting environmental and public health information into the hands of the American people is one of the most effective ways to reduce local pollution and prevent it from occurring in the future. With this action, the Clinton Administration is strengthening and expanding the Toxics Release Inventory: an annual database of chemicals released in local communities and reported by industrial facilities nationwide, and the centerpiece of community right-to-know.

Individuals and more than 1,500 citizens groups across the country use the right-to-know information to work directly with companies releasing the chemicals, as well as state and local officials. Together, they work to reduce the toxic releases that go into the air, land, and water. Use of community right-to-know information is one of the most effective *non-regulatory* tools against harmful pollution: *Since the program began in 1986, facilities required to report toxic releases have reduced their emissions by 43%.*

Today's Action Requires More Industries to Report Right-to-Know Data

Today, the Clinton Administration finalized a requirement, announced in June 1996 by Vice President Gore, that -- for the first time ever -- increases by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to make public the levels of toxic chemicals they release into the air, water and land in communities across America. Today's action delivers on President Clinton's commitment to expand every citizen's right to know about local pollution in several ways. The action:

- **Requires Thousands of Local Facilities to Begin Right-to-Know Reports.** The Clinton Administration is adding 6,100 new facilities that will begin reporting on toxic releases in local communities, so that a total of 31,000 facilities will now report toxic emissions to the public, community by community.
- **Adds Seven New Industry Categories to Right-to-Know Information.** The Clinton Administration is adding seven new industrial categories under the right-to-know program. Those categories are: metal mining, coal mining, electric utilities, commercial hazardous waste treatment, petroleum bulk terminals, chemical wholesalers, and solvent recovery services. These categories will be added to 20 others already reporting on toxic releases. In addition, 700 chemical manufacturing facilities -- which report right-to-know information under existing requirements -- also will report on additional types of pollution required under today's expansion. For example, chemical manufacturers, in addition to

reporting releases under current requirements, will have to report hazardous waste treatment activities -- such as burning or stabilizing chemical wastes -- under the new expanded requirements.

- **Provides More Information on Local Pollution to Millions More Americans.** The Clinton Administration expansion of right-to-know reporting requirements to include seven new industry categories means that tens of millions of Americans in communities across the country will be able to know more than ever before about local releases of toxic pollution. For example, new right-to-know reports from bulk petroleum distribution plants will provide new, never-before available information to some 53 million Americans living near those plants.
- **Invites Stakeholders to Provide Input to Improve New Right-to-Know Reports.** Through the new expansion of right-to-know, EPA will establish a process to allow a wide range of stakeholders -- citizens, community groups, environmental organizations, businesses, and others -- to improve the type of right-to-know information available to communities, and to help streamline right-to-know reporting to ease the paperwork burden for businesses affected by the requirements.

A Long Record of Expanding the Public's Right-to-Know About Local Pollution

To ensure that current right-to-know reporting continues to give Americans a more complete picture of all the toxic pollution released into our communities, the Clinton Administration has:

- **Nearly doubled the list of chemical releases reported to the public by factories that release them into the environment, adding 286 chemicals to the Toxics Release Inventory in 1994.**
- **Ensured that right-to-know reporting will continue unabated.** President Clinton protected expansion of right-to-know reporting against Congressional efforts to undermine it with a Pollution Disclosure Executive Order in 1995, requiring federal contractors to meet EPA's pollution disclosure standards.
- **Required Federal facilities to report toxic emissions to public.** To make the federal government a leader in pollution prevention, President Clinton issued an Executive Order in 1993 requiring federal agencies to report toxic releases and cut toxic emissions in half by 1999.
- **Making information more easily available to citizens.** One of the biggest challenges is to make right-to-know information more user-friendly and accessible. The Administration has improved Internet and electronic access; made the information easier to understand and use; and is working to ensure that right-to-know information is available in more public libraries nationwide.

The Clinton Administration is Taking Bold Steps to Expand Right-to-Know to Other Important Areas

To further enhance Americans' right-to-know about information concerning our food, our drinking water, our homes and our communities, the Clinton Administration has:

- **Given the American people the right to know about tap water contaminants:** The Clinton Administration proposed improvements in consumer information about local tap water in 1995. President Clinton fought for and signed into law a new Safe Drinking Water Act that gives Americans access to direct, simple information — sent directly to their homes in water utility bills — about local water quality, contaminants, water sources, and health risks. The Administration also required drinking water monitoring for *cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants in large drinking water systems, to be made available through a toll-free hotline.
- **Expanded consumers' right-to-know about pesticide health risks:** The Clinton Administration worked to ensure that the nation's new food safety law includes special right-to-know provisions, requiring distribution of health information about pesticides on food — with information about how consumers can avoid those health risks — in major food stores nationwide. The law — signed by President Clinton in August, 1996 — gives EPA new authority to require chemical manufacturers to disclose information about their pesticide products, beyond the requirements in existing laws. EPA also can require manufacturers to provide information about possible effects pesticides may have on reproductive and developmental health.
- **Made nationwide information available for the first time on state-by-state advisories urging the public to avoid or limit eating fish due to pollution contamination.** The information is available, free of charge, on a set of personal computer diskettes or on the Internet, making it easier for Americans to learn about specific health risks.
- **Provided homebuyers and renters the right to know about lead paint before they buy or rent a property built before 1978.** Beginning in 1996, EPA and HUD now require sellers and landlords to provide any known information about lead-based paint hazards; provide consumer information; and provide an optional period for lead paint inspections.
- **Announced plans to improve consumer informational labels on home and garden pesticides and hard-surface cleaning products.** Currently, the health, safety and environmental information on certain product labels, especially on pesticides, is often difficult to find and understand. EPA has invited common-sense ideas for label improvements from consumers, industry and health professionals.
- **Expanded public access to EPA information on environmental and public health problems and solutions.** The Agency's electronic ENVIROFACTS provides public access to environmental facts about local facilities. Citizens and businesses can access new EPA rules on the Internet, as well as submit their comments electronically. This information can help citizens to reduce and prevent pollution within their neighborhoods.

Protecting the Environment

President Clinton and Vice President Gore

"I want an America in the year 2000 where no child should have to live near a toxic waste dump, where no parent should have to worry about the safety of a child's glass of water, and no neighborhood should be put in harm's way by pollution from a nearby factory."

- President Clinton, 8/28/96

During the last generation, we made great progress in protecting the environment. We now have cleaner, safer air and water. We have cut lead levels in our children's blood by 70%, and toxic emissions from factories by half. But a third of us still breathe air that endangers our health, and in too many communities, the water is not safe to drink. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to common sense reforms to environmental programs and are determined to block attempts to roll back safeguards for our families' food, water and air.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Ensuring Public Health

- **Community Right to Know:** Provided communities with access to more information about chemicals released into their air and water. Issued a Pollution Disclosure Executive Order requiring additional industries to inform the public about pollution. Nearly doubled the number of chemicals that industry must report to communities.
- **Safe Drinking Water:** Signed legislation to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act and ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water. Required drinking water systems to test for and eliminate dangerous contaminants such as *cryptosporidium*, which in 1993 killed 100 and sickened 400,000 in Milwaukee.
- **Toxic Waste Clean-ups:** Completed as many toxic waste clean-ups in three years as were completed in the previous 12. Accelerated cleanup of toxic waste dumps by 20% and significantly reduced cost. At Department of Energy sites, clean-up is underway at 744 former nuclear facilities, compared to 68 cleaned up in the previous administration.
- **Attempts to Roll Back Protections:** Blocked Republican Congressional attempts to roll-back 25 years of environment and public health protections. Vetoed a budget that cut EPA enforcement and Superfund toxic waste clean-ups by 25%. Blocked passage of lobbyist-written bill to dismantle the Clean Water Act.
- **Pesticides and Food Safety:** Signed new food safety law -- based on principles set forth by the President four years ago -- to strengthen standards for pesticides in food, including

special safeguards for children. Canceled dozens of hazardous pesticides while moving safer substitutes into the market more quickly.

- **Clean Air:** 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%.
- **Clean Water:** Blocked the lobbyist-written bill to roll back the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act keeps billions of pounds of toxic pollutants and sewage out of our rivers, lakes and streams.

Protecting Our Natural Resources

- **American Heritage Rivers:** Announced initiative to designate ten American Heritage Rivers this year to enhance our citizens' enjoyment of the historic, cultural, recreational, economic and environmental value of our rivers and to protect the health of our communities.
- **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument:** Created a new national monument protecting 1.7 million acres of spectacular red rock canyonlands, artifacts from three ancient cultures, and the most remote site in the lower 48 states.
- **National Parks:** Signed legislation that creates or improves almost 120 national parks, trails, rivers, and historical sites. Created largest park in lower the 48 states with California Desert Protection Act. Blocked Republican attempts to close national parks.
- **Everglades Restoration:** Implementing bold new Everglades plan, committing \$1.5 billion over seven years to help restore the Everglades and ensure safe, clean water for south Florida.
- **Farm Conservation:** Proposed and signed into law Farm Bill that authorizes \$2.2 billion in additional funding for conservation programs such as the Conservation Reserve and Wetlands Reserve.
- **Yellowstone:** Reached agreement to halt massive gold mine three miles outside Yellowstone National Park, protecting the area from toxic runoff and other threats.
- **Arctic Refuge:** Vetoed a Republican Congressional bill that would have opened the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling.
- **Endangered Species Protection:** Completed 190 Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) covering 4.4 million acres of public and private land across the country, compared to 14 before we took office. HCPs are voluntary agreements to protect open space and wildlife while giving landowners the certainty they need effectively to manage their land.

Common Sense Environmental Reforms

- **Recycling:** Issued an Executive Order to jump-start the market for recycled goods
- **Reinventing Environmental Regulation:** Created new ways to achieve greater environmental results at less cost: administrative reforms at EPA alone have eliminated more than 15 million hours of paperwork for businesses and communities -- the equivalent of a quarter-million work weeks for the private sector.
- **Environmental Technology:** Helping American businesses compete more effectively in the fast-growing global market while creating jobs for American workers.
- **Revitalizing Communities:** Accelerated the cleanup of brownfields -- abandoned, contaminated urban property -- clearing the way for local redevelopment while protecting green areas outside our cities. Proposed targeted tax incentive for investors who purchase and clean up old waste sites in communities across the country.

Protecting the Global Environment

- **Climate Change:** Entered into 119 agreements with electric utilities to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. These voluntary agreements represent real reductions of greenhouse gases through many different actions including efficiency measures, forestry initiatives and electricity generation from renewable energy.
- **Phaseout of Persistent Pollutants:** Led the way to a worldwide agreement to phase out the use of 12 dangerous, persistent organic pollutants such as PCBs and DDT.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to support policies that protect our health and natural resources while making common sense reforms to environmental programs by:

- Recognizing and restoring outstanding stretches of America's rivers by selecting ten American Heritage Rivers this year.
- Expanding community right-to-know laws and challenging communities to use the information to work with business to cut pollution.
- Cleaning up two-thirds of Superfund sites by 2000 — 500 more in four years. Challenging Congress to provide true reform of the Superfund program and to drop proposals to force taxpayers to pick up the tab to clean up toxic waste.
- Getting tough on criminal polluters by strengthening penalties for the worst environmental criminals and ensuring that courts can secure polluters' assets in order to restore the communities they victimize.
- Protecting the global environment from climate change by negotiating a global accord to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Challenging Congress to pass the President's transportation bill with a 30% increase for congestion and air quality improvements, mass transit, and support for scenic byways and recreational trails.
- Challenging Congress to provide true reform of the Endangered Species Act to strengthen, not roll back, species protection.
- Dramatically reducing paperwork and replacing one-size-fits-all regulations with result-focused programs.
- Challenging Congress to re-examine and reverse those policies that would endanger our health and safety by weakening programs such as safe drinking water and clean air.
- Continuing to work with state and community leaders and businesses to find better ways to protect our natural resources and provide economic opportunities.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Under the direction of Attorney General Reno and Bonnie J. Campbell, Director of the Violence Against Women Office, the Justice Department has worked aggressively to educate the public about the problems of domestic violence and sexual abuse. The Attorney General and Director Campbell have traveled extensively to meet, work and speak with those on the front lines throughout the country. In April of 1997, Campbell was selected by Time magazine as one of "1997's 25 Most Influential Americans" in recognition of her work to raise public awareness of domestic violence.

The Department has created a Violence Against Women Home Page on the internet, and distributes a newsletter on the Violence Against Women Act for community-based organizations throughout the country. In addition, the Violence Against Women Advisory Council, which reports to the Attorney General and Secretary Shalala, created a community checklist on domestic violence and sexual assault and distributed it to more than 10,000 groups throughout the country.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM VIOLENT SEXUAL OFFENDERS

The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, enacted as part of President Clinton's Crime Act, was amended by the federal Megan's Law, signed by the President on May 17, 1996. Under these statutes, sex offenders and child molesters must register information about their whereabouts with appropriate state law enforcement agencies for ten years after release from prison, and state prison officials must notify local law enforcement when they are released. States must notify the general public when a particularly dangerous sex offender moves into their community. In August 1996, Attorney General Reno responded to President Clinton's request for a plan to create a national registry to track sex offenders, including rapists and child molesters. An interim registry is now in place, permitting law enforcement to check on the criminal histories of offenders registered in other states.

CONCLUSION

By committing new federal resources and focusing attention on these issues, the Violence Against Women Act is working to insure that the nation's criminal justice system responds to the needs and concerns of women who have been, or could be, victimized by violence. In every area of the country, programs and activities are underway that were not in place three years ago, efforts ranging from new specialized prosecution and law enforcement units to expanded services for previously underserved women. Prosecutors have new tools and victims have more protection. Working together as partners, federal, state and local law enforcement are taking critical steps to combat domestic violence and sexual assaults.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SEXUAL HARASSMENT GUIDANCE FACT SHEET
WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING FOR WOMEN'S MAGAZINES**

May 21, 1997

**Judith A. Winston
Acting Under Secretary and General Counsel**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex in any education program or activity that receives federal financial assistance.

It has been the Department's longstanding position that *sexual harassment of students is a form of sex discrimination* -- whether engaged in by school employees, other students, or third parties such as a visiting speaker or visiting athletes: *Sexual harassment can interfere with a student's academic performance and emotional and physical well being. It undermines an essential mission of schools to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory learning environment for all students.*

On March 13, 1997 the Department of Education published *sexual harassment guidance* in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The Guidance provides, for the first time, a comprehensive and accessible guide to the longstanding standards the Department uses to investigate and resolve sexual harassment complaints; it applies to every level of education. The Guidance also addresses recent court decisions involving sexual harassment of students.

The Guidance instructs *school personnel, parents, and students* regarding:

- What conduct is, and is not, sexual harassment under Title IX.
- Under what circumstances schools will be liable for sexual harassment under Title IX.
- How schools should respond to information or complaints regarding sexual harassment in their programs or activities.

The following important issues are discussed in the Guidance:

- Title IX gives *schools flexibility to respond appropriately to sexual harassment* depending on the circumstances involved, including the age of the students and the severity of the conduct.
- The Guidance also explains that *not all behavior with sexual connotations is sexual harassment* under Title IX: In order to violate Federal law, sexual harassment must be sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that

it adversely affects a student's education or creates a hostile or abusive educational environment.

- ***Nor is the Guidance intended to discourage appropriate physical contact in schools:*** Title IX's prohibition of sexual harassment does not extend to nonsexual conduct such as a coach hugging a student who made a goal, or a teacher hugging a young student with a skinned knee.
- ***Title IX does not ban flirtation:*** As the Guidance makes clear, in order to be considered sexual harassment the conduct must be unwelcome. To evaluate whether the conduct was welcome, schools should look at the totality of the circumstances.
- ***A school is liable under Title IX for peer sexual harassment only where it knows or should have known of the harassment but fails to take appropriate steps to remedy the hostile environment.*** Title IX does not make a school responsible for the actions of the harassing student, but rather for its own discrimination: If one student subjects another student to severe, persistent, or pervasive sexual harassment, and the school knows about it, but does not stop it, the school forces the victim of harassment to endure a sexually discriminatory environment in order to obtain an education.
- The Guidance clearly states -- and illustrates through examples -- that when taking actions in response to sexual harassment ***a school must protect academic freedom and other free speech rights.***

INTERNET:

A copy of the Guidance can be obtained on the Internet at:
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/sexhar00.html>.

In addition, the Department's sexual harassment pamphlet -- Sexual Harassment: It's Not Academic -- can be obtained at:
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/ocrshpam.html>.

NEWS ARTICLES:
U.S. Department of Education's
Sexual Harassment Guidance

1. Sometimes a Kiss is Just a Kiss (Editorial); *Chicago Tribune*, 3/15/97.
2. Innocent Kisses (Editorial); *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 3/23/97.
3. New Guidelines on Sexual Harassment Tell Schools When a Kiss Is Just a Peck, *New York Times*, 3/15/97.
4. Schools Get U.S. Guidance on Harassment; Much of the Time, A Kiss Is Just a Kiss, *The Washington Post*, 3/14/97.
5. Agency Spells Out What Sex Harassment Is, Isn't; *Los Angeles Times*, 3/14/97.
6. Classroom Distinctions; New Sexual Harassment Guidelines for Schools Released; *American Bar Association Journal*, May 1997.

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March 15, 1997 Saturday, NORTH SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: EDITORIAL; Pg. 22; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 237 words

HEADLINE: SOMETIMES A KISS IS JUST A KISS

BODY:

In a remarkable and refreshing departure, a federal agency on Thursday issued guidelines that invoked "good judgment and common sense."

The Department of Education guide is intended to help schools identify sexual harassment, but in invoking plain old common sense it is a worthy model for a host of other government bureaucracies.

That, however, does not obscure the sad reality that it has taken a federal directive to remind the people who run the nation's schools to use their heads for something besides hatracks.

Oh, the guidelines didn't put it quite that way, but the meaning is clear. In the wake of cases like that in Lexington, N.C., where a 1st-grader was punished for sexual harassment after kissing a classmate on the cheek, the message to school officials is: Get a grip.

Increasingly, public schools that receive federal funds--and that's most of them--have been adopting "zero tolerance" toward all sorts of normal kid-type behavior for fear of running afoul of federal sexual harassment policies and losing their funding.

The new guidelines make it clear that a kiss on the cheek, a teacher's hug, a coach's congratulatory slap on the back are not by definition sexual harassment.

Too bad the Education Department can't issue a "common sense" directive for the vast array of other issues in which school officials are using "zero tolerance" as a substitute for rational thought.

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St. Louis Post-Dispatch

March 23, 1997, Sunday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

SECTION: EDITORIAL, Pg. 02B

LENGTH: 153 words

HEADLINE: INNOCENT KISSES

BODY:

The Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education has made it official: "A kiss on the cheek by a first grader does not constitute sexual harassment." As part of guidelines for dealing with harassment, that conclusion makes sense.

In fact, common sense is a big part of the guidelines, which came in the wake of a series of incidents, including the punishment of Johnathan Prevette for kissing a girl in his first-grade class. In general, they tell schools that while one-time casual contact or acts by a teacher comforting or praising a student do not constitute harassment, failure by a school to act when it has been notified of a hostile or abusive atmosphere is a serious mistake.

The guidelines won't govern every situation, but they should reassure school officials that in most cases, they will know sexual harassment when they see it. Acting accordingly will be up to them.

New Guidelines on Sexual Harassment Tell Schools When a Kiss Is Just a Peck

By TAMAR LEWIN

For school officials uncertain about how they should handle sexual taunting on the school bus, lewd advances by a teacher or an unwanted kiss by a classmate, the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights this week issued its guidelines for dealing with sexual harassment.

To protect themselves from liability, many school districts have adopted tough sexual harassment policies that have made teachers nervous about any physical contact with students. The policies led to a storm of protest last fall when Johnathan Prevette, a North Carolina first grader, was suspended for a day and banned from an ice cream party for giving a young classmate a peck on the cheek.

The new Federal guidelines, which are largely the same as the draft version sent to school districts nationwide last year, contain no hard-

and-fast rules about what particular behavior constitutes sexual harassment. But they do offer some constructive examples.

In the murky area where the First Amendment bumps up against women's civil rights, the guidelines say that it would be harassment for a group of male students to target a girl on their school bus, making frequent sexual comments about her body and passing around pictures of her engaging in sexual conduct.

But it would be acceptable for a professor in a college creative writing class to assign literary excerpts containing explicit sexual descriptions that were derogatory to women, or to read aloud student writing containing similar material.

And while the guidelines say it is fine for a coach to hug a successful athlete or a kindergarten teacher to hug a child with a bruised knee, a teacher's repeated hugging, if it is

No hard-and-fast rules, but a nod to good judgment and common sense.

neither congratulatory nor consoling, may be sexual harassment.

The guidelines also forbid same-sex harassment such as a group of girls spreading sexually explicit graffiti about another girl.

Over all, the guidelines stress the need for judgment and common sense and explicitly direct schools to take account of the students' age and maturity.

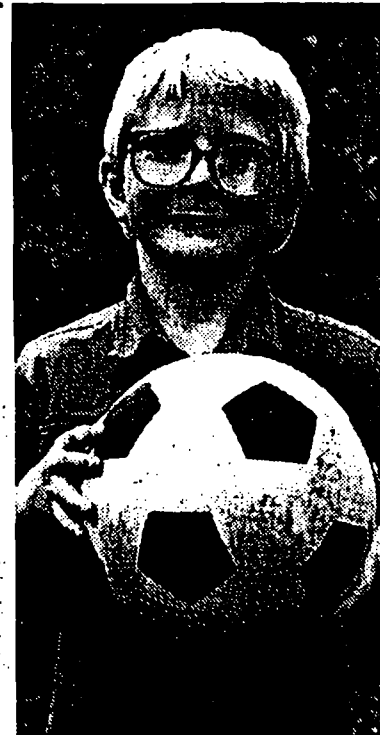
In the same wording as the earlier draft, the guidelines make it clear that a single casual incident of inappropriate behavior is not sexual harassment: "Sexual harassment must be sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it adversely affects a student's education or creates a hostile or abusive educational environment. For a one-time incident to rise to the level of harassment, it must be severe."

Lest there be any doubt, the guidelines add, "A kiss on the cheek by a first grader does not constitute sexual harassment."

The guidelines reiterate the Education Department's position that schools can be held liable for student-to-student harassment if school officials knew about the problem and did not respond adequately, or failed to take adequate steps to prevent it.

While several courts have adopted the reasoning behind the guidelines, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, in New Orleans, has explicitly rejected it.

In a ruling last year, the appeals



Associated Press

Johnathan Prevette, 6, shown at his home in Lexington, N.C., last fall, can put his mind at ease now.

court, which covers Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, said that schools could be held liable for failing to respond to complaints of student-to-student harassment only if they treated girls' complaints different from those of boys.

And in a ruling on Feb. 17, the court found that a school was not liable for the environment created by a male karate instructor who had sexual intercourse with a 15-year-old student. The guidelines criticize those decisions as incorrect.

Lawyers who handle sexual har-

assment cases say the guidelines should be helpful, although they break no new legal ground.

"This is a great tool to help schools clarify things, and make it clear that they have to look at the individual circumstances and not jump the gun to find sexual harassment every time a student does something to another student," said Verna Williams, a lawyer at the National Women's Law Center in Washington. "They also say clearly, as I think is correct, that the Fifth Circuit is simply wrong."

The Office for Civil Rights, which enforces the law forbidding sex discrimination and sexual harassment in schools that receive Federal money, can take legal action against schools that do not have adequate policies to prevent harassment or fail to respond properly to complaints.

But what worries schools far more is the threat of private lawsuits brought by parents under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 — suits that can lead to damages like the \$500,000 that a California jury awarded last fall to a 14-year-old girl, Tianna Ugarte, who had endured months of sexual taunting and threats from a classmate.

"Sexual harassment is a really, really hot issue for school boards," said Gwendolyn Gregory, deputy counsel to the National School Boards Association.

"While any words about using common sense and judgment are helpful, schools are still very concerned about the prevention aspect," Ms. Gregory added. "It's not that easy, and there's a real worry about being held liable for something you've tried to prevent. This is hardly going to cure all evils."

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March 14, 1997, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A25; THE FEDERAL PAGE

LENGTH: 464 words

HEADLINE: Schools Get U.S. Guidance On Harassment; Much of the Time, A Kiss Is Just a Kiss

BYLINE: Rene Sanchez, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

The Education Department made it official yesterday: The famous kiss that Johnathan Prevette, a first-grader in North Carolina, planted on the cheek of an unsuspecting classmate last year was in fact just a kiss -- not grounds for sexual harassment.

In new guidelines released for schools nationwide, the department urged educators to consider the age and maturity of students and to use "judgment and common sense" when deciding whether an incident among students is harassment, or merely inappropriate.

The guidelines do not specifically mention Prevette's case, which drew worldwide attention after he was suspended from school for a day and banned from an ice cream party, but generally cites it as the kind of incident that is not harassment.

"In order to give rise to a complaint . . . sexual harassment must be sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it adversely affects a student's education or creates a hostile or abusive educational environment," the guidelines state. "For a one-time incident to rise to the level of harassment, it must be severe."

School officials in Lexington, N.C., the small town where Prevette attends school, swiftly retreated from punishing him, but his kiss raised new debate among educators across the nation about setting the bounds of appropriate behavior for students.

In recent years, many schools have created tough new sexual harassment policies that do not distinguish by age, partly in fear of lawsuits from parents. Some schools now define sexual harassment as virtually any unwelcome

contact between students. Several recent court cases, in which schools were forced to compensate students involved in some kind of sexual incident, have forced educators to be more vigilant about harassment.

Last fall, for example, a jury in San Francisco awarded \$ 500,000 to a 14-year-old girl after finding that school officials had ignored her complaints about her classmate, a sixth-grade boy, who frequently made sexual gestures and taunts toward her. Few awards in other cases have been that large, but they have nevertheless convinced officials that they could be held liable for any form of harassment that they do not stop.

The department's guidelines, which were published yesterday in the Federal Register, do not establish precise ages or precise situations to judge student or faculty behavior. Rather, the guidelines present general scenarios for schools to consider.

For example: A coach hugging a student who made a goal, or a kindergarten teacher's consoling hug for a child with a skinned knee would not be considered sexual harassment, according to the guidelines. But a teacher's repeatedly hugging and putting his or her arms around students under "inappropriate circumstances" could be.

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Los Angeles Times

March 14, 1997, Friday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part A; Page 29; National Desk

LENGTH: 371 words

HEADLINE: AGENCY SPELLS OUT WHAT SEX HARASSMENT IS, ISN'T

BYLINE: From Associated Press

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Johnathan Prevette, the first-grader punished last year for kissing a girl at school, can put his mind at ease. The Education Department declared Thursday that a peck on the cheek by a 6-year-old falls short of sexual harassment.

Issuing guidelines for schools or colleges that receive federal funds--and most do--the department called upon the "judgment and common sense" of school officials when fighting harassment. The department told officials to consider the alleged offender's age.

"The factors in the guidance confirm that a kiss on the cheek by a first-grader does not constitute sexual harassment," the department said, not mentioning Johnathan by name.

"In order to give rise to a complaint . . . sexual harassment must be sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it adversely affects a student's education or creates a hostile or abusive educational environment," the guidelines said. "For a one-time incident to rise to the level of harassment, it must be severe."

Johnathan was separated from his class at Southwest Elementary School in Lexington, N.C., for a day and banned from an ice cream party after he kissed a classmate in September 1996. The case drew worldwide attention, and ridicule, for schools nervous about the strings attached to federal aid. The guidelines also attempted to clarify some other situations:

* "A high school athletic coach hugging a student who made a goal or a kindergarten teacher's consoling hug for a child with a skinned knee will not be

considered sexual harassment," the guidelines said. However, "a teacher's repeatedly hugging and putting his or her arms around students under inappropriate circumstances" could be.

- * Students who tell gay or lesbian students they're not welcome at a cafeteria table aren't sexually harassing them under federal law. Male students who target lesbian students for sexual advances would be harassing them.

- * A creative writing class in which students read classic works or student works that are sexually derogatory would be protected.

- * A group of male students that targeted a female student on her bus ride home, making sexual comments about her body or following her home, could not be protected.

Classroom Distinctions

New sexual harassment guidelines for schools released



School officials' actions would be different if Johnathan Prevette kissed a classmate now.

BY STEPHANIE B. GOLDBERG

His 15 minutes of fame may be over, but Johnathan Prevette, the North Carolina 6-year-old who was branded a sexual harasser for kissing a classmate, appears to have made his mark on new harassment guidelines by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights.

Released in mid-March, the guidelines leave no doubt that Prevette's kiss was not harassment, but a case of school officials failing to assess the severity of the conduct and the age of the students involved.

Educators are hoping the new guidelines will also be helpful to them in analyzing other situations, such as those involving claims of peer harassment in high schools or free speech rights of harassers.

A Model for Plaintiffs

As the first formal statement of the agency's standards for investigating sexual harassment, the guidelines provide a model for schools to follow. They could be a

boon to plaintiffs in lawsuits if courts show them deference, as they have shown toward EEOC guidelines on sexual harassment in the workplace. They can also be a basis for legal action by the Office of Civil Rights, which can seek money damages and a cutoff of federal funds against offending schools.

Under the guidelines, administrators who learn of sexual harassment by either students or employees are required to take prompt steps to end it. That stance goes further in holding schools accountable than some courts, at least one of which has held that schools generally are not liable for student-on-student harassment.

The problem of harassment is not just academic; indeed, it is epidemic, according to "Hostile Hallways," a 1993 survey sponsored by the Educational Foundation of the American Association of University Women. The survey of 1,600 students in grades 8 through 11 found that four out of five students have experienced some form of sexual harassment. Of girls who had been

harassed, 32 percent reported that it made them reluctant to talk in class.

Robert J. Shoop, a professor of education law at Kansas State University, says in many cases students are called names such as "sluts" or "homos," are subjected to inappropriate groping, and are pressured into affairs by adult instructors. In several cases, students have committed suicide. "The problem is much more prevalent and serious than people think," he says.

Striking Back

Some victims drop out, become emotionally withdrawn or transfer to private schools, Shoop notes. But more are fighting back by filing lawsuits under Title IX of the Civil Rights Act, which forbids discrimination in educational institutions receiving federal funding.

Suits rose sharply when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1992 that Title IX provides a right to money damages in cases of quid pro quo harassment, which occurs when an employee makes an educational decision or conditions a student's participation in an activity on the youth's submission to unwelcome sexual conduct. *Franklin v. Gwinnett County Public Schools*, 503 U.S. 60 (1992).

More recently, the Court denied cert in a 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals case that held student-on-student harassment was not actionable absent allegations that the school district itself had engaged in discriminatory conduct. *Rowinsky v. Bryan Independent School District*, 80 F.3d 1006 (1996), cert denied, 117 S. Ct. 165 (1996).

The tide may turn in favor of plaintiffs, however, if courts analyze peer harassment under the guidelines. They may even hold a school accountable for the actions of visiting students if it has notice and some control over their actions.

In such cases, the student's

conduct must be unwelcome, an issue that may not be that clear-cut. "Mere acquiescence in the conduct or the failure to complain" or even "the fact that the [complaining] student willingly participated on one occasion" does not prove welcomeness, but "active ... participat[ion] in sexual banter and discussions" might.

The prospect of allowing students to recover damages for peer harassment is "complete insanity," says conservative Michael Greve, a constitutional law scholar and director of the Center for Individual Rights in Washington, D.C.

Says Greve, "By these standards, my children are harassed on a daily basis by peers."

But Kansas State's Shoop believes the problem is that harassment is policed too little rather than too much.

"Some schools don't have policies or have a boilerplate policy from the main district that no one bothers to read," he says. "Other schools think they're really cutting-edge if they put teachers through a two-hour training session."

Only a handful, he says, give students meaningful instruction in recognizing, reporting and defending themselves in these situations.

Shoop thinks the guidelines will be helpful in raising awareness, but he is critical of the part dealing with sexual harassment by adult employees. Like the section on peer harassment, it declares that sexual conduct must be unwelcome to be actionable.

If the student is in grade school, the Office of Civil Rights will never view sexual conduct with an employee as consensual. But if the student is in high school, the OCR will consider the acts involved, the parties' relationship and "whether the student was legally or practically unable to consent to the sexual conduct."

Shoop finds that distinction disturbing. "It opens up a very unhealthy discussion," he says. "I can see schools arguing that the student didn't tell anyone so the

teacher was legitimate in assuming the relationship was welcome." Shoop thinks that "any romantic relationship at all between student and teacher" should be prohibited.

The guidelines are tougher



Robert Shoop: Teacher-and-student romances not OK.

when it comes to quid pro quo harassment by an adult employee in a position of authority. They declare just one such instance of unwelcome conduct to be unacceptable, even if administrators did not know or should not have known of the problem. Conservative Greve thinks it is reasonable to allow quid pro

quo complaints. "If there's a line to draw, that's it," he says.

Some critics complained there were not enough bright lines in a preliminary version of the guidelines. One example was the section dealing with the harassment of gay students. The guidelines stated that Title IX protected them from discrimination based on gender but not based on sexual orientation.

Chai Feldblum, a civil rights professor at Georgetown Law Center, said she thought the section was ambiguous and wondered if its protection was only available in situations where a gay student failed to comport with gender stereotypes.

Spelling It Out

The revised guidelines attempt to be more explicit.

Discrimination against gays is prohibited when it involves sexually related conduct and comments. On the other hand, a statement such as "gay students are not welcome at this table in the cafeteria" would not constitute sexual harassment.

Similarly, schools had complained of insufficient guidance on First Amendment issues. Under the revised guidelines, a college class reading *Lady Chatterley's Lover* would not create a hostile environment. However, repeated sexual comments directed at female students on a school bus are not protected speech.

Another complaint from school administrators is that the guidelines could clash with the rights of employees. Schools that discipline or fire faculty members to eliminate harassment have faced wrongful discharge or denial of due process suits.

The National School Board Association, based in Washington, D.C., suggests a different remedy when the school is unable to stop harassment: Remove the victim. Yet, the guidelines do not seem to support that remedy as appropriate, the association says.

Marcia Greenberger of the National Women's Law Center, in Washington, D.C., adds: "There is a lot of common sense involved in those guidelines."

"It's unrealistic to expect that every kind of situation would be covered. General principles are what count."

Complaints Rising

Sexual harassment complaints filed with the U.S. Department of Education began to rise in 1993. The tally:

YEAR	K-12	COLLEGE
1991	11	25
1992	31	58
1993	78	75
1994	77	68
1995	78	71
1996	72	78

Source: U.S. Department of Education.