

President Bill Clinton:

Meeting America's Challenge of Providing Educational Opportunities for the New Century

"People who work hard still need support to get ahead in the new economy. They need education and training for a lifetime. . . More and more Americans are finding that the education of their childhood simply doesn't last a lifetime."

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

A Record of Accomplishment:

Making the Necessary Investments in Education

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

Preparing Our Schools for the 21st Century

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

Opening the Door to College

- Reformed the **student loan program**, making college more affordable this year for **5.5 million students** and saving taxpayers billions of dollars by cutting red tape and providing loans with flexible repayment options, including pay-as-you-earn plans. (Student Loan Reform Act)

- Enabled **45,000 volunteers to earn money for college** by serving their communities and their country in the **AmeriCorps** program. (National Service Act)

The Challenges ahead:

President Clinton will continue to lead the effort to reform education and training to prepare every American for the new economy and our schools for the new century. That is why the President has challenged Congress to open the doors to college to more Americans by:

- Making **\$10,000 of college tuition tax-deductible each year**; expanding **work-study** to help 1 million young Americans work their way through college by the year 2000; providing **\$1,000 merit scholarships** for the top 5% of graduates in every high school; and increasing the number of **Pell Grants** for students who need financial help.

Perhaps no challenge is more central to ensuring America's competitive strength in the 21st century than renewing our schools. In response, President Clinton has challenged:

- Every state, community and school to adopt **national standards of excellence**; **cut red tape**; and give schools and teachers more flexibility for **grassroots reform**.
- Each state to give **parents the right to choose** the public school their children will attend and to allow parents, teachers and administrators to form new charter schools.
- All parents to become **more involved** in their children's education.

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III. New Community - Education

"Let's give our children a future. Let us take away their guns and give them books. Let us overcome their despair and replace it with hope. Let us, by our example, teach them to obey the law, respect our neighbors, and cherish our values. Let us weave these sturdy threads into a new American community that can once more stand strong against the forces of despair and evil because everyone has a chance to walk into a better tomorrow."

-- President Clinton
1995 State of the Union



The Clinton Administration has made an unprecedented commitment to reforming the federal role in education and training. The President's lifelong learning agenda expands opportunities for American children and adults to improve their skills and maximize their potential.

The Clinton Record: A Lifelong Learning Agenda. The President announced at the beginning of his Presidency his commitment to a Lifelong Learning Agenda - from expansion and improvement of early childhood education to reform of adult education and training programs. Much of that agenda has been enacted over the past two years:

Head Start. Provides comprehensive services for disadvantaged children, ages three to five, and their families.

- The President has increased Head Start spending by \$760 million and wants to expand the program to reach more young children.
- The President won bipartisan support for improving the operation of Head Start along the lines of recommendations made by the Head Start Advisory Commission to examine the program after 25 years of operation.

Goals 2000. Goals 2000 affirms the President's belief in the critical role of education in building America's future and the federal government's central role as a partner in that effort.

- More than 40 states have already chosen to participate in Goals 2000 and with the leadership of local communities, parents, teachers and school administrators have developed their own strategic plans for educational reform.
- Legislation passed in 1994 will support meaningful state and community school improvement efforts, based on raising academic and occupational standards, improving teaching and expanding the use of technology.

National Service. With passage of the National Service legislation, Americorps has 20,000 volunteers working in schools, hospitals, neighborhoods and parks. National Service can change the way government works by enabling participants to pay for their education while helping to change

communities. That is why President Clinton is working to expand the program to 47,000 participants.

Direct Lending. With the passage of the Student Loan Reform Act, 104 schools and over 300,000 students are already participating in the program. This year more than 1,400 schools - representing 40% of the total number of loans and the maximum allowed under this year's authorization - have committed to enrolling. This program cuts bureaucracy and saves taxpayers and students billions of dollars, while allowing more borrowers flexible repayment arrangements -- including pay-as-you-earn plans through Individual Education Accounts.



Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Designed primarily to help disadvantaged children, this law focuses on improvements in teaching in more than 50,000 schools and has a direct impact on five million children in high poverty areas. By increasing school flexibility to use federal aid and supporting effective innovations, this law takes a big step toward helping all students meet high academic standards.



School to Work. Broadens educational, career and economic opportunities for students not immediately bound for four-year colleges through local partnerships among businesses, schools, community organizations and state and local governments. By equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue work or post-secondary training, this law helps ensure that America will be capable of performing and prospering in a competitive global economy.

Technology and Training. To ensure that our nation's classrooms are not left behind in the technological and information revolution that is taking place, the Clinton Administration has initiated a "Technology Learning Challenge," which will challenge learning communities -- teachers, students, local businesses, telecommunications companies, curriculum and learning specialists -- to develop and deploy interactive learning curriculum content that will allow students to learn both at school and at home.

Republican Proposals

The Republicans are threatening the federal commitment to education in a number of ways that the Clinton Administration will oppose:

- ❑ **The Department of Education.** Republicans calls for abolishing the Department of Education. The President believes strongly in the Department and the need for a strong federal role in education.
- ❑ **Goals 2000.** Republicans are calling for eliminating a program that promotes high standards for students.
- ❑ **Direct Lending.** Republicans want to eliminate the very program that cuts bureaucracy and saves taxpayers and students billions with cheaper student loans.
- ❑ **Student Loans.** Republican proposals to pay for their tax cuts includes \$9.6 billion from eliminating the in-school interest grace period, which relieves students with subsidized loans from responsibility for interest on their loans while in school and for six months following graduation.
- ❑ **National Service.** Republicans want to dismantle AmeriCorps, the President's signature service program, which expands opportunities for young people willing to give something back to their country.

- **Safe and Drug-Free Schools.** Republicans want to kill a program - present in 94% of our schools - that teaches students the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse and alternatives to violence.

Fighting Crime

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III. New Community - Child Care and Head Start

"The hardest and the most important part of welfare reform is moving people from welfare to work. You have to educate and train people. You've got to make sure that their kids aren't punished once they go to work by losing their health care or their child care."

-- President Clinton
National Association of Counties, March 7, 1995



Quality child care is critical to the millions of working families struggling to make ends meet. The Administration has been committed to expanding child care assistance through Head Start and other successful child care programs - and to improving the quality of child care.

Background

The need for assistance with child care is large and growing. Proposals to block grant and cap child care assistance threaten to eliminate the child care which enables poor families to work.

- Almost one million children of working poor families receive assistance through the At-Risk and Child Care and Development Block Grant Programs. If child care funds are capped, these hard working American families could be cut off and put at-risk for welfare dependency.
- Low-income families who pay for child care spend more than a quarter of their income on these expenses, and millions more are in need of child care assistance. In California, 225,000 children are on a waiting list for child care.
- More than 400,000 children each month receive child care assistance through AFDC and Transitional Child Care programs. Assistance for these children and their families is in jeopardy if child care funds are capped. Studies indicate that when child care arrangements break down, parents are more likely to drop out of school or leave work and go back on welfare.

The quality of child care is far from adequate. Poor quality care threatens children's development. The recent study conducted by economists and child development experts confirms that quality care is related to child outcomes. The vast majority of care in the country was found to be mediocre, with 40% of infant care considered poor.

Accomplishments

- **Increased Funding for Child Care.** Every budget submitted by President Clinton has included increases in child care. The President's budget for 1996 increases funding by \$100 million.

- **A Central Element of Welfare Reform.** The Work and Responsibility Act introduced last year continued the guarantee for families moving toward self sufficiency and expanded child care assistance for working families - part of the effort to make work pay. The President's plan included a \$1.5 billion increase in child care funding over five years for working poor families at-risk of welfare dependency.
- **Improving Coordination.** The Administration has worked to make programs more consistent and coordinated, proposing new regulations to reduce red tape, improve quality, give states more flexibility, and streamline child care operations into a single Child Care Bureau.
- **Technical Assistance.** The Clinton Administration revamped and strengthened technical assistance to the states, territories and tribes to ensure they have access to the best available information on quality issues, particularly health and safety. In addition, the Administration has launched a National Child Care Information Center for policy makers and the general public.
- **Head Start.** President Clinton's FY96 budget proposes an additional \$400 million increase for this program which provides comprehensive services for disadvantaged children, ages three to five, and their families. With bipartisan support, the President appointed the Head Start Advisory Commission to examine and recommend improvements to the program after 25 years of service.

Update

Under Republican proposals, more than \$2 billion dollars in child care assistance would be cut over five years and more than 300,000 children would lose assistance in the year 2000.

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Administration Accomplishments in Educational Technology

"In our schools, every classroom in America must be connected to the information superhighway with computers and good software and well-trained teachers . . . I ask Congress to support this education technology initiative so that we can make sure this national partnership succeeds."

President Clinton
State of the Union
January 23, 1996

Last year President Clinton challenged the nation's parents, teachers, government, community, and business leaders to work together to ensure that all American children are technologically literate by the dawn of the 21st century -- equipped with the communication, math, science, and critical thinking skills essential for the 21st century economy. He established four specific goals:

- A. Connect every school and classroom in America to the information superhighway.
- B. Provide access to modern computers for all teachers and students;
- C. Develop effective and engaging software and on-line learning resources as an integral part of the school curriculum;
- D. Provide all teachers the training and support they need to help students learn through computers and the information superhighway;

Accomplishments

The response to the President's challenge was immediate and came from all parts of the American community. An enormous amount has already been accomplished:

America's Technology Literacy Challenge

To implement his state of the union proposal, President Clinton asked congress to fund a \$2 billion, five-year Technology Literacy Challenge designed to catalyze state, local, and private sector partnerships in each state to achieve achieving the four education technology goals. Congress supported the President's request and appropriated \$257 million in the omnibus bill for FY97 to launch this challenge. States will be asked to develop a strategy for using the funds to achieve the President's four goals and for ensuring that students in low-income areas are not left behind. While the states will have complete freedom to design programs, they will be asked to find support from private firms which will be at least as great as the Federal funds requested. They will also be asked to specify timetables and benchmarks and to report progress against these benchmarks to the people of the state annually.

The Private Sector Response

CEOs of some of several the nation's largest, and most innovative telecommunication companies have written the President to say that they are responding to his challenge by contributing resources and energy to work in partnership with the states in meeting all four of the President's goals. Sumner Redstone will act as Chairman and Lynn Forrester as Vice Chairman of a new organization that will reach many other CEOs willing to work in partnerships to with states and school districts. This work builds on the recommendations of the National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIIAC) created by the President

the National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIIAC) created by the President by Executive Order on September 15, 1993 to advise the Administration on policy issues related to the information superhighway. This distinguished group of Americans presented their conclusions to the President and Vice President on February 13, 1996. In their "Kickstart Initiative," they strongly supported the President's vision and four goals in education technology and issued a call to action to community leaders at all.

The Technology Challenge Program

This component of the technology literacy challenge invites school systems, colleges, universities, and private businesses to form partnerships to develop creative new ways to use technology for learning. These local innovation grants focus on integrating innovative learning technologies to improve teaching and learning. Each federal dollar is matched by more than 3 to 1 by local and private funds. The 19 consortia funded last year are reaching schools with 1.2 million students and involve partnerships with businesses, museums, libraries, and parks in school systems around the nation. These 19 programs will be continued and an additional 24 partnerships were funded this year. The new partnerships will allow 24 school districts to work in partnership with a total of 153 other school districts and 130 businesses in 34 states. \$57 million will be available for the program in FY97 to support a third round of grants as a part of the funding made available for the Technology Literacy Challenge.

Universal and Affordable Access to Advanced Telecommunications

President Clinton signed into law the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which can ensure that all US schools, libraries, hospitals, and clinics have affordable access to advanced telecommunications services. The President has called on the Federal Communication Commission's regulators to ensure that every school and library has access to the information superhighway. States will be encouraged to include plans for taking advantage of this opportunity in the plans they develop under the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund.

NetDay96

The President and Vice President brought together information industry leaders on September 21, 1995, to launch a historic effort to connect classrooms in at least 20 percent of California's schools by the end of the year. The initiative, called NetDay96, is a volunteer effort by California companies, universities, parents, teachers, and engineers to install internal wiring in California schools. On March 9, 1996, the President and Vice President and more than 20,000 volunteers laid 6 million feet of cable connecting thousands of California schools with the technology needed to link classrooms, libraries, and laboratories to the information superhighway. This effort sparked an enormous response around the nation and this fall all 50 states are hosting NetDay events which will bring the nation dramatically closer to our goal of connecting all classrooms to the net by the end of the decade.

Connecting Schools in Empowerment Zones

Earlier this year the Vice President announced an initiative that will connect every school in every Empowerment Zone in the country to the information superhighway this year. Most of these schools are already connected using privately donated funds. Private firms also sponsored a truck loaded with computers, engaging software, and instructors which traveled to every empowerment zone this summer helping expose the communities to the power of the new technology and helping teachers prepare to use the equipment being installed. This program means that every child living in one of the 15 urban and rural Empowerment Zones will be able to connect to the Internet -- and students and teachers in these Empowerment Zones schools will be able to connect to each other. This initiative will help to ensure that

Zones schools will be able to connect to each other. This initiative will help to ensure that all our children have their shot at the American dream by working to close the divide between those children who have access to technology and those who don't.

21st Century Teachers

The new technology can't make much of an impact on learning unless teachers help find creative new ways to exploit its power and make the new tools an integral part of their teaching. The teachers, and the organizations that support teachers, all stepped forward earlier this year work together to meet the president's challenge. The National School Boards Association, the National PTA, the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, and many other professional and business organizations have launched this initiative which hopes to recruit thousands of teachers who will volunteer to enhance their own understanding of how to use education technology and share their expertise with at least five of their peers during the coming school year. The group is making extensive use of the worldwide web to help teachers communicate with each other and identify materials and programs available for professional development.

Tech Corps

The President announced the creation of the Tech Corps -- a national organization of private sector volunteers with technological expertise dedicated to improving K-12 education at the local level. Tech Corps was launched as a private-sector response to the President's national mission to make all children technologically literate by the dawn of the 21st century. Its purpose is to recruit, place, and support volunteers from the private sector to advise and assist schools in integrating new technologies into the classroom. Official Tech Corps chapters have been formed in 35 states plus the District of Columbia. Tennessee has a very active chapter with many volunteers from the Knoxville area.

Grants to Schools Through the Telecommunications and Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIIAP)

The Clinton Administration created the Department of Commerce's Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIIAP), which makes grants to public institutions to speed the flow of information through the application of advanced communications technology. TIIAP has accelerated the pace of connecting public institutions and has stimulated significant private sector investment. This program has enabled the federal government to leverage \$24.4 million in federal funds to provide a total of \$64.4 million in cutting-edge demonstration projects for public institutions.

Connecting Students to the Environment

The Vice President initiated the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program in 1994. GLOBE joins students, educators, and scientists in an international science and environmental education network using state-of-the-art technology. GLOBE students make environmental observations at or near their schools and share their data through the Internet. More than 2,000 schools in the U.S. participated in GLOBE in 1995.

The Department of Defense Dependent School System

The President asked the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the children of US service personnel studying in DoD school systems are able to take full advantage of the opportunities of education technology. DoD responded with a vigorous program built around all four of the President's goals. The investment will ensure that students will have full access to the enormous resources available on the internet wherever their parents are stationed.

Executive Order Facilitating Transfer of Federal Computers to Schools

The President issued an executive order streamlining procedures for contributing computer equipment to schools and other nonprofit educational institutions. The order encourages use of nonprofit reuse and recycling programs to upgrade computers for schools. Many nonprofit programs both refurbish computers -- ensuring that schools get fully functional and reliable equipment -- and teach students how to repair computers. The order specifies that federal Empowerment Zones and Enterprise communities have priority helping ensure equity in access to new education technology. The executive order has already resulted in major transfers of equipment to empowerment zones.

Goals 2000 Technology Planning

Under the Goals 2000 Educate America Act, in the first round of funding, five million was provided for state technology infrastructure development. 48 states used these funds to establish a technology task force and to develop and implement a technology plan to improve student learning as an integral part of the Goals 2000 state improvement plan. In addition, many states are using portions of their Goals 2000 funds to integrate technology to their overall statewide planning efforts.

ERIC Program

In order to reach out to the teachers across the country, the Clinton Administration expanded the ERIC service, which stands for the Educational Resources Information Clearing House Service. Educators are able to send questions through e-mail to askERIC, and receive a response within 48 hours. Educators can ask about lesson plans, educational techniques, information on GOALS 2000, and so on. Every week 200 new questions come in, and the information that ERIC has made available on-line, such as sample lesson plans and answers to frequently asked questions, is accessed more than 15,000 times a week.

Improving Rural Education and Health Care

The Administration supports the wide dissemination of information to improve education and health care for rural residents through the existing Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning and Medical Link (DLML) Grant Program. The program has given students attending rural schools in 28 states access to previously unavailable courses.

Star Schools Program

The Administration has maintained strong support for the Star Schools distance learning projects, which have helped improve instruction in mathematics, science and foreign languages, literacy skills and vocational education. These distance learning projects serve under-served populations through partnerships that develop, construct, acquire, maintain and operate telecommunications audio and visual facilities and equipment, develop and acquire educational and instructional programming, and obtain technical assistance for the use of such facilities and instructional programming. More than one million students and their teachers in the 50 states and territories participate in this program funded by the Department of Education.

Regional Technology Consortia

The Clinton Administration initiated the Department of Education's Regional Technology Consortia to help state and local educational agencies, teachers, administrators and others to integrate advanced technologies into K-12 classrooms, library media centers and other

educational settings (including adult literacy centers). The Consortia are establishing and conducting regional activities that address professional development, technical assistance, and information resource dissemination to promote the effective use of technology in education.

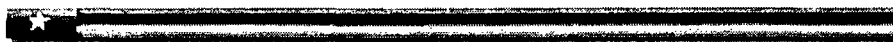
Rural Telecommunications Infrastructure

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) administers grant and loan programs to assist rural and remote communities with the development of their communications infrastructure, including schools. In addition, 52 K-12 school systems will be provided two-way interactive video services.

Assessing School Connectivity

The first national survey of school access to broad band telecommunications and the Internet was completed in the Fall of 1994. A second national survey was conducted in October 1995, which documents the progress being made to link schools and classrooms to each other and to the information superhighway.

**Send us your suggestions and ideas on how we can
bring our classrooms into the information age.
EMail: etech@doc.gov**



To comment on this service, send mail to feedback@www.whitehouse.gov

President Bill Clinton:

Meeting America's Challenge of Cherishing our Children and Strengthening America's Families

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

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

A Record of Accomplishment:

Cherishing Our Children

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

Health

Strengthening Our Families

- Enabled **workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave** to care for a family member without fear of losing their jobs. (Family and Medical Leave Act)
- Provided **tax relief for 15 million working families** by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit to allow more families to qualify for tax rebates.
- Helped families move from **welfare to work** by authorizing 38 states to bypass existing welfare rules and set time limits on benefits, require recipients to work or stay in school, provide child care and give employers incentives to hire welfare recipients. These waivers are making work and responsibility a way of life for 75% of all welfare recipients.
- Breaking the cycle of welfare dependency** by requiring teenage mothers to live at home, stay in school and turn their lives around.

Ensuring Responsibility

- Collected a **record \$1 billion in child support** in 1995 through tougher enforcement, almost a 40% increase over 1992.

- ❑ Issued an Executive Order to help track down **federal workers who fail to pay child support**.
- ❑ Worked with community, business and religious leaders to form a **national campaign to reduce teen pregnancy**.

recent survey

Making Our Communities and Schools Safer

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

Making the Necessary Investments in Education

- ❑ Increased **Head Start funding by almost \$800 million** to provide early education to tens of thousands of additional children in need.
- ❑ Supported the development of the **nation's first system of voluntary standards of excellence** for students while encouraging grassroots reforms to improve our schools. (Goals 2000: Educate America Act)
- ❑ Encouraged schools, colleges and employers to join in creating **school-to-work opportunities**, providing students with work-based learning and giving them new pathways from high school to good jobs and post-secondary education. (School-to-Work Opportunities Act)
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Preparing Our Schools for the 21st Century

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Challenged the technology industry to connect 20% of California's public schools to the **Information Superhighway** by the end of this school year. This challenge became a reality in March during Net Day '96.

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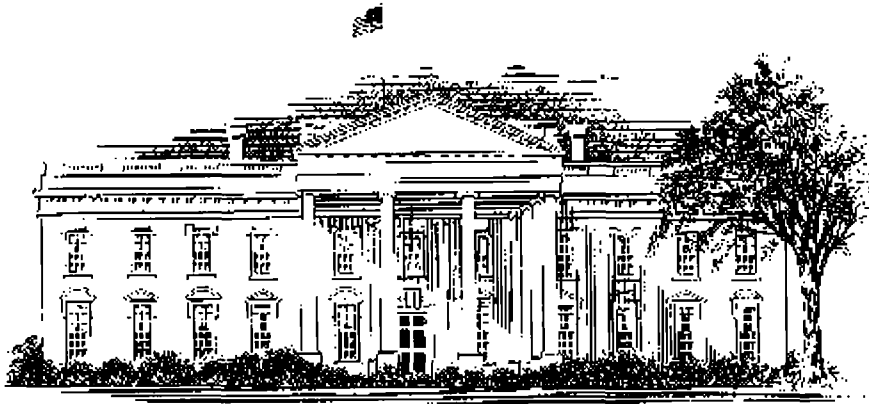
The Challenges ahead:

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

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

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President Bill Clinton: Meeting America's Challenges in An Age of Possibility

June 1996

"Now it is time for us to look also to the challenges of today and tomorrow, beyond the burdens of yesterday. The challenges are significant. But America was built on challenges, not promises....I am confident: When Americans work together in their homes, their schools, their churches, their synagogues, their civic groups, their workplace, they can meet any challenge."

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

Cherishing Our Children

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Strengthening Our Families

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- ❑ Issued an Executive Order to help track down **federal workers who fail to pay child support**.
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Second Challenge: To Provide Educational Opportunities for the New Century

Making the Necessary Investments in Education

- ❑ Increased **Head Start funding by almost \$800 million** to provide early education to tens of thousands of additional children in need.
- ❑ Supported the development of the **nation's first system of voluntary standards of excellence** for students while encouraging grassroots reforms to improve our schools. (Goals 2000: Educate America Act)
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- ❑ Reformed the **student loan program**, making college more affordable this year for **5.5 million students** and saving taxpayers billions of dollars by cutting red tape and providing loans with flexible repayment options, including pay-as-you-earn plans. (Student Loan Reform Act)
- ❑ Enabled **45,000 volunteers to earn money for college** by serving their communities and their country in the **AmeriCorps** program. (National Service Act)
- ❑ Challenged Congress to make **\$10,000 of college tuition tax-deductible each year**; expand **work-study** to help 1 million young Americans work their way through college by the year 2000;

work-study to help 1 million young Americans work their way through college by the year 2000; provide **\$1,000 merit scholarships** for the top 5% percent of graduates in every high school; and increase the number of **Pell Grants** for students who need help.

Third Challenge:

To Help Every American Achieve Security in the New Economy

Strengthening America's Economy

- ❑ Submitted to Congress the **first genuine balanced budget in 17 years** -- balancing the budget in seven years based on both Administration and Congressional Budget Office estimates while protecting our fundamental priorities of Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment.
- ❑ Won enactment of the **largest deficit-cutting plan in history** -- cutting the deficit in half within four years, after it quadrupled during the previous two Administrations.
- ❑ Oversaw the creation of over **10 million new jobs in just under three-and-a-half years** -- a faster annual rate of job growth than any Republican Administration since the 1920's.
- ❑ **Unemployment rate has fallen to 5.3%** -- down from over 7% when President Clinton took office.
- ❑ **93% of all new jobs created are in the private sector** -- higher than the average percentage during any Administration since the Truman Administration.
- ❑ More than **3.5 million new jobs in high-wage industries** have been created since January 1993 -- by contrast, 200,000 high-wage industry jobs were lost in the previous four years.
- ❑ **One million new manufacturing, automotive and construction jobs** have been added since January 1993.
- ❑ Highest annual number of **new business incorporations** since World War II.
- ❑ Real median **family income has increased** during the Clinton Administration -- after falling 4% during the previous four years.
- ❑ The combined unemployment, inflation and mortgage rate is at its **lowest level since 1968**.

Creating Economic Security

- ❑ Proposed a **\$2,600 job-training voucher** program to allow unemployed workers the freedom to choose the training programs that are right for them.
- ❑ Fought for meaningful **health insurance reform** to allow people to keep coverage when they change jobs and prevent denial of coverage due to pre-existing conditions.
- ❑ Challenged Congress to **raise the minimum wage** to provide the opportunity for working Americans to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.
- ❑ Protected the pensions of more 40 million workers and retirees by **reforming the federal pension insurance system** and requiring companies to keep their retirement plans sufficiently funded. (Retirement Protection Act)
- ❑ Challenged Congress to enable Americans to **save for their retirements** by increasing pension portability, enhancing pension protection and expanding coverage.

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

- ❑ Exports have surged **31% over the last three years** because President Clinton stood up for American workers and opened more markets to U.S. goods and services.
- ❑ **More than 1 million new export-related jobs** have been created under the Clinton Administration -- jobs supported by exports pay on average 15% more than other jobs.
- ❑ America is once again the **world's number one manufacturer of automobiles** -- overtaking Japan for the first time since the 1970's.
- ❑ American goods exported in sectors covered by Clinton Administration trade agreements with Japan have grown over 85% -- **three times faster** than growth in other U.S. goods exported to Japan.
- ❑ The United States was named the **most competitive economy in the world** for the third year in a

The United States was named the **most competitive economy in the world** for the third year in a row.

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

Won Passage Of The Toughest and Smartest Crime Bill Ever

- ❑ Puts **100,000 more police officers** on the street -- 43,000 officers have already been funded.
- ❑ Imposed a targeted "**Three-Strikes-and-You're-Out**" provision to put career violent offenders behind bars for life.
- ❑ Expanded the **death penalty** to include drug kingpins, murderers of federal law enforcement officers and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons.
- ❑ Provided funding for **100,000 more prison cells** to help states ensure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.
- ❑ The number of **murders fell 8%** in 1995 -- one of the largest decreases in more than three decades. The nation's largest cities saw **overall crime fall 6%** during the same period.

Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Criminals

- ❑ Stood up to the gun lobby and won passage of the **Brady Bill** -- as a result, more than **60,000 fugitives, felons and other criminals** have already been blocked from buying handguns.
- ❑ Banned the manufacture and importation of **19 of the deadliest assault weapons** while specifically protecting more than 650 legitimate sporting weapons. (Assault Weapons Ban)

Combatting Drug Use

- ❑ Developed a comprehensive **National Drug Control Strategy** that will reduce illegal drug use through law enforcement, prevention, treatment and interdiction.
- ❑ Breaking the cycle of drugs and crime through **universal drug testing** in the criminal justice system and by providing funding for **drug courts**.

Fighting to End Domestic Violence

- ❑ Tripled funding for **battered women's shelters** and provided **\$26 million in state grants** to bolster local law enforcement, prosecution and victims' services to better address violence against women. (Violence Against Women Act)
- ❑ Established nationwide 24-hour **domestic violence hotline** providing immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals for those in need.

Making Our Schools Safer

- ❑ Keeping dangerous weapons out of our children's classrooms by enforcing a "**Zero Tolerance**" **gun policy in schools**.
- ❑ Reducing **violence and drug abuse in our schools** by investing in school security, drug prevention programs and counseling. (Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act)
- ❑ Encouraged schools to adopt **school uniform policies** to help reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect.
- ❑ The number of Americans who use cocaine has **declined 30%** since 1992.

Securing America's Borders

- ❑ Stood firm against illegal immigration and deported a record **51,600 illegal and criminal aliens** in 1995 -- a 15% increase over 1994.
- ❑ Increasing the number of **Border Patrol agents** along the southwestern border by 50% to stem the

Increasing the number of **Border Patrol agents** along the southwestern border by 50% to stem the flow of illegal aliens into the United States.

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

Ensuring Public Health

- ❑ Made the air we breathe cleaner by issuing **new standards to cut toxic pollution** from chemical plants by **90%** and dangerous incinerator emissions by **98%**.
- ❑ Fought **attempts in Congress to roll back** the progress made in ensuring safe food and water for our families.
- ❑ Issued **new policy to control *E. coli* bacteria contamination** in meat.
- ❑ Expanded the public's **right-to-know** about toxic releases and required polluters to disclose information to the public.
- ❑ Ensured compliance with environmental safeguards by **toughening EPA's enforcement program**

Protecting Our Natural Resources

- ❑ Fought attempts to close **national parks** and lift the ban on offshore oil drilling.
- ❑ Committed \$1.5 billion over seven years to help restore the unique **Florida Everglades**.
- ❑ Broke through decades of conflict and negotiated a consensus plan to protect and allocate **California Bay-Delta water**.

Common Sense Reforms to Environmental Programs

- ❑ Changed EPA rules and procedures to **reduce paperwork requirements** for businesses by 10 million hours.
 - ❑ Reformed wetlands and endangered species programs to lessen any adverse impact on homeowners.
 - ❑ Launched a **Brownfields Initiative** to return land to productive use by providing tax incentives to clean-up old industrial waste sites.
-

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

Leading the Fight for Peace

- ❑ Ended four years of bloodshed and destruction in **Bosnia** by brokering the Dayton peace accords.
- ❑ Championed peace efforts in the **Middle East** by negotiating the Israel-Jordan peace treaty and helping Israelis and Palestinians fulfill their historic peace agreement.
- ❑ Organized historic March 1996 **Summit of the Peacemakers** in Egypt, gathering 29 world and regional leaders to support the Middle East peace process and counter terrorism.
- ❑ Negotiated written **agreement between Israel and Syria** to end Hezbollah attacks on Israel and provide restoration of calm and protection of civilians on both sides of the Lebanon-Israel border.
- ❑ Restored democracy to **Haiti**, stopping the flow of refugees to the U.S. and accomplishing the first transfer of power from one democratically-elected president to another in Haitian history.
- ❑ Became the first American President to visit **Northern Ireland** in the pursuit of a just and lasting peace.

Making a Difference in America and Around the World

- ❑ **Russian nuclear missiles** are no longer pointed at America's children.
- ❑ Poised to reduce **nuclear stockpiles** by another 25% by successfully securing bipartisan Senate ratification of the Start II Treaty with Russia.
- ❑ Imposed the **toughest sanctions ever** on Castro's Cuba following the brutal killing of U.S. nationals over international waters.
- ❑ Shaped new American military for post-Cold War challenges to peace, ensuring America remains the **best-equipped, best-trained and best-prepared fighting force in the world**.
- ❑ Intensified the **fight against terrorism and organized crime** at home and abroad by enacting anti-terrorism legislation giving law enforcement officials tough new tools to stop terrorists before they strike.

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

Reforming Our Political System

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

Making Government Work Better and Cost Less

- ❑ Cut the federal civilian workforce by nearly **240,000 positions** -- the size of the federal government is now at its **lowest level in 30 years**.
- ❑ Eliminating more than **16,000 pages of unnecessary regulations**.
- ❑ Saved taxpayers **\$58 billion** by cutting wasteful government practices and spending through Reinventing Government efforts. Additional recommendations will save another **\$116 billion**.
- ❑ Prohibited Congress from imposing new requirements on state and local governments without paying for them. (Unfunded Mandates Reform Act)
- ❑ Fought for and signed **line-item veto** legislation to change the way Washington works by **cutting spending** on wasteful special-interest projects.

President Bill Clinton:

Meeting America's Challenge of Taking Back Our Streets From Crime, Gangs and Drugs

"At last we have begun to find a way to reduce crime, forming community partnerships with local police forces to catch criminals and prevent crime. This strategy, called community policing, is clearly working. Violent crime is coming down all across America. In New York City, murders are down 25%, in St. Louis, 18%, in Seattle, 32%. But we still have a long way to go before our streets are safe and our people are free from fear."

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

A Record of Accomplishment:

Won Passage of the Most Comprehensive Crime Bill Ever

In 1994, after more than six years of gridlock, a bipartisan majority in Congress passed the toughest, smartest Crime Bill in the nation's history. It passed with the strong support of every major law enforcement organization in the country, as well as prosecutors, mayors, and state and local officials. The new law now provides:

- ❑ A targeted "**Three-Strikes-and-You're-Out**" provision to put career violent offenders behind bars for life.
- ❑ An expanded **death penalty** for drug kingpins, murderers of federal law enforcement officers and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons.
- ❑ Funding for **100,000 more prison cells** to help states ensure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.
- ❑ Increased penalties for **sex offenders** and a registration requirement for violent sexual offenders.

More Police and Community Policing

- ❑ The President's plan to put **100,000 more police officers** on the street through community policing represents the federal government's biggest commitment ever to local law enforcement. The funding of \$8.8 billion will result in an almost **20%** increase in the nation's police force levels. Already, **43,000** officers have been funded.
- ❑ The number of **murders fell 8%** in 1995 -- one of the largest decreases in more than 30 years. The nation's largest cities saw their **overall crime fall 6%** during the same period.

Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Criminals

- ❑ Stood up to the gun lobby and won passage of the **Brady Bill** which provides for a **5-day waiting period** and background checks of prospective handgun buyers. In the two years since its enactment, the Brady Law has stopped more than **60,000 fugitives and felons and other criminals** from purchasing handguns.

- ❑ Banned the manufacture and importation of **19 of the deadliest assault weapons** while specifically protecting more than 650 legitimate sporting weapons. Cop-killing assault weapons, like the Uzi, are the weapons of choice for drug dealers and gangs -- not hunters and sportsmen.

Combatting Drug Use

- ❑ Developed a comprehensive **National Drug Control Strategy** that will reduce illegal drug use through law enforcement, prevention, treatment and interdiction.
- ❑ Breaking the cycle of drugs and crime through **universal drug testing** in the criminal justice system and by providing funding for **drug courts**.
- ❑ The number of Americans who use cocaine has **declined 30% since 1992**.

Fighting to End Domestic Violence

- ❑ Tripled funding for **battered women's shelters**.
- ❑ Bolstered local **law enforcement, prosecution and victims' services** to better address violence against women through \$26 million in state grants. (Violence Against Women Act)
- ❑ Improved the responses of police, prosecutors and judges to **domestic violence** and other violence against women; forced sex offenders to pay restitution to their victims.
- ❑ Established nationwide **24-hour domestic violence hotline** providing immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals for those in need.

Making Our Schools and Communities Safer

- ❑ Keeping dangerous weapons out of our children's classrooms by enforcing a **"Zero Tolerance" gun policy** in schools.
- ❑ Reducing **violence and drug abuse in our schools** by investing in school security, drug prevention programs and counseling. (Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act)
- ❑ Encouraged schools to adopt **school uniform policies** to help reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect.
- ❑ Helped protect families and children who live in **public housing** from gangs, drugs and violent crime by instituting a **"One-Strike-and-You're-Out"** policy for residents who engage in criminal activity.

Securing America's Borders

- ❑ Stood firm against illegal immigration and deported a record **51,600 illegal and criminal aliens** in 1995 -- a 15% increase over 1994.
- ❑ Increasing the number of **Border Patrol agents** along the southwestern border by 50% to stem the flow of illegal aliens into the United States.

The Challenges ahead:

While overall crime rates dropped, juveniles are increasingly the perpetrators -- and the victims -- of some of our country's most violent crimes. That is why reducing juvenile crime is a key component of President Clinton's crime-fighting agenda. The President is getting tougher with juvenile criminals by:

- ❑ Urging Congress to pass legislation providing **tougher sentences** for gun-wielding **drug dealers**

and gang members. (Armed Dangerous Felons Act)

- Submitting to Congress legislation that gives prosecutors the discretion to prosecute **juvenile offenders as adults** -- juveniles who commit adult crimes should face adult consequences.
- Calling on states to ensure that prisoners serve at least **85% of their sentences**, and to follow the federal lead in requiring all those arrested to be **drug-tested** as they enter the criminal justice system.

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FEDERAL ACTION ALERT:

Make Sure Television Ratings Work for American Families

In February 1996, in response to public pressure, the television industry agreed to devise a television ratings system -- that would be used in conjunction with the v-chip -- to give parents more information about the TV shows their kids watch. On December 18, the television industry released its proposal -- recommending an age-based system similar to movie ratings. Under this proposal, the TV industry would rate all programs according to six broad age categories: TV-Y, TV-Y7, TV-G, TV-PG, TV-14, and TV-M.

The industry commission -- headed by Jack Valenti, President of the Motion Picture Association of America -- disregards the near-unanimous advice of parents and children's groups. The children's advocacy community recommended an objective system to give parents specific descriptive information about the **content** of the shows. Each show would be rated on a simple, numerical scale indicating the level of V [violence], S [sex] and L [adult language]. Rather than relying on the subjective judgments of TV producers, parents would have the information they need to make their own decisions about what is appropriate for their kids.

The TV industry's decision to ignore this advice is a tremendous missed opportunity.

Some Facts -- Parents and Children's Experts All Agree:

- ❑ Two recent polls -- by the PTA and the Media Studies Center -- show that, when given a choice, an overwhelming 80% of parents support a descriptive system over a movie-ratings system. [Mr. Valenti's poll -- which claims that 83% of parents endorsed his age-based system -- has drawn criticism for not describing any other alternatives to parents .
- ❑ Over 30 newspapers from around the country -- from *The New York Times* to *The Washington Post* to *The Los Angeles Times* and *USA Today* -- have published strong editorials criticizing the age-based system.
- ❑ In early 1996, Children Now commissioned a comprehensive survey of the top communications and children's media experts around the country. The vast majority called for descriptive information to allow parents to make meaningful judgments about the appropriateness of a show for their own children.
- ❑ Among the many groups supporting a content-based system are: the National PTA, the American Medical Association, the National Education Association, American Psychological Association, Children's Defense fund, Coalition for America's Children, and the National Association of Child Advocates.

The industry needs to hear from you. The industry proposal will now be sent to the Federal

The industry needs to hear from you. The industry proposal will now be sent to the Federal Communications Commission, which will hold hearings before voting on it. During the hearing process, we all have an opportunity to encourage the industry to improve their proposal and give parents the information they're asking for.

Please write to:

Mr. Jack Valenti
Implementation Group for TV Ratings
c/o The Motion Picture Association of America
1600 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC. 20006
e-mail: jvalenti@mpaa.org

Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington DC. 20554
e-mail: rhundt@fcc.gov

Please send a copy of your emails and letters to Children Now at children@dnai.com.

Summary of Key Differences Between V-Chip Rating Systems

Age-based system	Content-based system
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> favored by 20% of American parents, according to a recent survey by the National PTA <input type="checkbox"/> does not provide parents with specific information about the content of individual programs <input type="checkbox"/> requires the TV industry to judge what material is acceptable for all children of a particular age range <input type="checkbox"/> assumes there is only one universal standard of program suitability for all children; applies that standard "across the board" <input type="checkbox"/> intermingles violence, sex and language issues in a single judgment; thus a parent cannot know why a show has been rated in a given way (i.e., which shows have sex, which have violence, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> shown to cause a boomerang effect by attracting younger viewers to content labeled as "forbidden fruit" (i.e., not intended for children below age 13) <input type="checkbox"/> judged as inadequate by 17 out of 18 of the nation's leading children's experts, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> favored by 80% of American parents, according to a recent study by the National PTA <input type="checkbox"/> includes symbols about the content of specific programs (V, S, and L for violence, sex or language) <input type="checkbox"/> allows parents to judge what material is acceptable for their children <input type="checkbox"/> accepts that there are different standards of suitability for children with different characteristics, backgrounds, and experiences <input type="checkbox"/> clearly separates ratings for each area (V/S/L); thus a parent can make viewing choices based upon specific information (i.e., some parents are more concerned about sex, others about violence, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> shown to have no influence on children's interest in program content - thus no possible boomerang effect from making labeled programs more attractive <input type="checkbox"/> supported almost unanimously by the experts as an essential aspect of any ratings system, according to the Children Now

the nation's leading children's experts,
according to a survey by Children Now

system, according to the Children Now
survey

For more information please contact the Center for Media Education at 202-628-2620, or fax at 202-628-2554. Electronically, you can reach CME by e-mail at cme@cme.org, or visit their Web site <http://www.cme.org/cme>.

Sample Letter

Date

Mr. Jack Valenti
Implementation Group for TV Ratings
c/o The Motion Picture Association of America
1600 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Valenti:

I write to you to express my concern that the TV industry is missing a tremendous opportunity to provide parents with enough information on the shows their kids watch. The proposed age-based rating system does not provide parents with specific information on the content of the programs, which would enable them to make accurate and meaningful decisions about what is appropriate for their children to watch.

A wide range of children's experts -- including Children Now, the American Medical Association, the National Education Association, the American Psychological Association, and the Coalition for America's Children among others -- support a content-based system rather than the proposed age-based one. And two recent polls, by the National PTA and the Media Studies Center, showed that 80% of parents support a descriptive system over a movie-ratings system. I must join the experts and parents in expressing my support for a content-based system and I urge you to respect their judgments and add specific content labels to your ratings system.

Sincerely,



[Press Information on TV Ratings System](#)

Federal Government Action Resources on the Internet

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[Membership
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[Community
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[Publication
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[Internet
Resources](#)

Children Now
children@dnai.com
1-800-CHILD-44

[Text version]

III. New Community - Welfare Reform

"I believe we must end welfare as we know it, because the current welfare system is a bad deal for taxpayers who pay the bills and for the families who are trapped on it. The American people deserve a government that honors their values and spends their money judiciously, and a country that rewards people who work hard and play by the rules."

-- President Clinton
December 8, 1994

The President wants welfare reform that reinforces basic American values -- work, responsibility, and family -- not punishes children for their parents' mistakes.

The President is optimistic that Democrats and Republicans working together can produce meaningful welfare reform. Now that the House has completed its work, the President hopes to work with the Senate to develop a proposal that truly ends welfare by requiring and promoting work and parental responsibility, while helping not hurting children.

Work

- Welfare reform should be about work. Welfare should provide people the opportunity to move from welfare to work as quickly as possible.
- In return, people must take responsibility for supporting themselves and their families. All those who can work must go to work to support their families.
- Welfare should be a second chance, not a way of life. No one who can work should be able to stay on welfare forever.
- We must reward work over welfare. No one who works full time should have to raise a child in poverty. That's why we increased the Earned Income Tax Credit for 15 million working Americans, why our welfare plan included an increase in child care, and why we proposed expanding health care coverage.

Responsibility

- We must hold BOTH parents responsible for their children.
- That's why we proposed the toughest child support enforcement measures ever - suspending drivers' licenses, tracking delinquent parents across state lines, and letting states make them work off what they owe.
- We also want to reduce teen pregnancy - young people must understand the responsibilities involved before they get pregnant or father a child. That's why the President has called for a National Campaign Against Teen Pregnancy.

Flexibility

- The President is firmly committed to giving states the flexibility to fix the welfare system at the local level.
- That's why we have granted half the states waivers to proceed with welfare reform.
- And that's why the administration wants to eliminate the need for waivers, letting states work within broad federal rules to decide how best to meet their needs.

The Proposals House Republicans Have Pursued Are Weak on Work and Cruel to Kids.

- House Republicans have used welfare reform as a cover for their real priority -- finding ways to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy.
- These proposals include block granting successful nutrition programs such as school lunch and WIC and reducing food stamp benefits by \$16 billion over five years.
- The Republicans propose cutting off benefits to mothers and their children until the mothers are 18. We propose requiring these young mothers to live at home, stay in school, and take the steps necessary to get their lives on track.

The administration is pushing for:

- Tougher work requirements that help states move people from welfare to work.
- The toughest possible child support enforcement, including penalties that threaten delinquent parents with losing drivers and professional licenses if they refuse to pay their child support.
- Tougher, smarter ways to demand responsible behavior and reduce teen pregnancy, not just punish people because they're poor, young and unmarried; and real flexibility for the states, not new mandates and less money.

The President Has a Lengthy History of Commitment to Welfare Reform

- As Chairman of the National Governors' Association, the President helped guide the 1988 Family Support Act to passage, working with a Democratic Congress and a Republican President.
- As Governor of Arkansas, Clinton made the state a leader in both welfare reform and child support enforcement.
- The President has given 29 states the flexibility to reform welfare at the local level and has signed an executive order making it easier to force federal employees to sign the child support they owe.

Update

The administration introduced the Work and Responsibility Act (WRA) last year - the most comprehensive welfare reform legislation a President has ever proposed. President Clinton hosted a bipartisan working session at the White House in January with leaders from all levels of government, and the administration will continue to pursue a bipartisan approach. The House passed welfare reform legislation on March 24th, on a vote that was almost strictly along party lines. The President commended the House for moving forward on the issue and for including all of the child support provisions from the WRA last year, but he was critical of other aspects of the bill, and the Administration's line on the bill generally was: not tough enough on work, too harsh on children.

IV. New Government
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III. New Community - The Environment & Public Health



"Preserving the environment is at the core of everything we have to do in our own country. Building businesses, creating jobs, fighting crime and drugs and violence, raising our children to know the difference between right and wrong, and restoring the fabric of our society."

-- President Clinton
April 21, 1994

President Bill Clinton is making common sense reforms in environmental programs to make them work better and cost less. He is working hard to protect our families' health and to provide lasting economic opportunities for generations to come -- and standing up to those who would roll back the clock and eliminate public health and environmental standards. Following are a few of his major accomplishments:

- ❑ **Reinventing Environmental Regulation.** On March 16, 1995, the President announced a comprehensive set of 25 actions to make environmental protection work better and cost less. The President is cutting red tape associated with complying with environmental standards by 25 percent and giving a 6 month enforcement grace period for small businesses who act in good faith.
- ❑ **Northwest Forest Plan.** The President's plan is putting Northwest communities back to work again, while conserving ancient forests for future generations.
- ❑ **Common Sense Initiative.** As part of the President's drive to make government work for people, the Environmental Protection Agency launched this initiative to make health protection cleaner, cheaper and smarter by focusing on results rather than "one-size-fits-all" regulations.
- ❑ **Community-Right-to-Know.** The President expanded the program that requires companies to disclose information about toxic releases in their area, putting power back into the hands of the people.
- ❑ **California Bay-Delta Water Agreement.** After decades of conflict, the Clinton Administration negotiated a consensus plan to protect the most valuable economic and environmental resource of the state of California. The San Francisco Bay and Delta estuary supplies drinking water to two-thirds of Californians, provides irrigation for 45% of America's fruits and vegetables, and supports 300 aquatic species.

- **Recycling.** President Clinton signed an executive order to promote recycling, cut solid waste and create jobs.
- **Protection for the California Desert.** President Clinton fought for, and then signed, the California Desert Protection Act, the largest single designation of parks and wilderness areas ever in the lower 48 states.
- **Environmental Technology.** The President's environmental technology initiatives are creating jobs for American workers and encouraging innovative new solutions to tough environmental problems.
- **Air Pollution.** The Clinton Administration is acting on the principle that people should have clean air to breathe. These actions include an unprecedented measure to reduce by 90 percent the toxic air pollutants emitted from chemical plants by 1997.
- **Restoration of the Everglades.** The Clinton Administration formed a partnership with the State of Florida that broke a six-year legal logjam that has allowed the state to get on with the task of restoring the unique Everglades.
- **Wetlands Reform.** The President reformed the wetlands program to cut red tape, increase fairness and flexibility for landowners, and protect and enhance the nation's wetlands. On March 6, 1995, the Administration announced a new policy that will allow a couple to build or expand a home without a wetlands permit.

[Immigration](#)

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[Text version]

III. New Community - Cracking Down on Drugs

"I'm going to do everything I can to implement the 1995 National Drug Control Strategy... We propose to work more closely with foreign governments to cut drugs off at the source. We propose to boost community efforts to educate young people about the dangers and penalties of drug use... We will work to break the cycle of crime and drugs providing treatment to hardcore drug users, who consume most of the drugs and cause much of the crime and health problems. And we will punish people who break the law more severely."

-- President Clinton
February 8, 1995

Background: Illegal Drugs are Still a Problem

- ❑ **Widespread Use.** 1 in 3 Americans have used an illicit drug; 1 in 9 have tried cocaine. Half of high school seniors have tried drugs, and 1 in 5 use them regularly.
- ❑ **Alarming New Trends.** Kids: After years of decline, in 1991, we started to see signs of increasing drug use among adolescents. And surveys show that fewer 8th, 10th and 12th graders have a clear understanding of the risks associated with drug use -- and are using more drugs. Drug Availability: Illegal drugs remain readily available to anyone who wants to buy them. Cocaine and heroine street prices are low and purity is high. And marijuana -- 10 times as potent as in previous years -- threatens to entice a new generation of drug users.
- ❑ **The Costs of Drug Use.** Drugs cost society an estimated \$67 billion -- 70% of which covers crime costs; 30% of which covers health-related costs. That's why, despite shrinking government and reducing the deficit, the Administration's Drug Strategy budget is the largest in history -- \$14.6 billion to fight drugs.

A Four Part Drug Strategy

Crack Down on Hard-Core Drug Use

- ❑ Heavy drug users consume a majority of the nation's illegal drug supply. Although hardcore users account for only about 20% of all cocaine users, they consume about two-thirds of the available cocaine. And hardcore drug use is linked to a disproportionate amount of crime and violence. On any given day, more than half the arrestees in our cities test positive for drug use. Treating these drug users can save us money -- as much as \$7 per treatment dollar -- and reduce crime. That's why our Strategy includes:
 - ❑ \$919.8 million for the Substance Abuse Performance Partnership, including a \$60 million set-aside for the heaviest drug users;
 - ❑ \$150 million for Drug Courts and \$40.2 million for treatment in prisons, so we can use courts, jails and prisons to turn crime-committing addicts around.



Send a Strong No Use Message to Our Kids

- Recent surveys show that adolescent drug use -- and the feeling that drugs are cool and not dangerous -- is on the rise. Studies also show an alarming level of violence in our schools, much of it tied to drug use. Our kids need to get a strong "no" message on drugs -- as well as on guns and gangs. Our Strategy proposes:
- \$500 million for the Department of Education's Safe and Drug-Free Schools program, to give states the money to fund drug prevention programs like DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), train parents on the warning signs of drug use and to pay for more police and metal detectors; and
- Implementation and funding of the Crime Bill's prevention programs, to help keep kids in school, off drugs and out of trouble.

Reduce Drug-Related Crime and Violence

- Implement the 1994 Crime Bill. The nation took a major step forward when Congress passed the President's Crime Bill. It includes key tools and resource to help communities reduce drug use and trafficking, such as:
 - 100,000 more police in community policing, to do everything from helping break-up open-air drug markets to teaching kids about the dangers of drugs; drug enforcement task forces that can cover several jurisdictions; increased resources for the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF); and drug courts.

Tough Federal Drug Enforcement. The Strategy calls for increased coordination of federal anti-drug enforcement efforts, including:

- a new comprehensive initiative to reduce marijuana cultivation;
- targeted investigative resources on major drug traffickers;
- expanded border control drug enforcement; and
- increased coordination with private sector to crack down on money laundering.

Cut Drugs at the Source

- Last year, the President signed a Presidential Decision Directive outlining a 4-pronged strategy to reduce the flow of cocaine from the Andean countries. It includes (1) strengthening the law enforcement and judicial institutions in source countries; (2) destroying narco-trafficking organizations; (3) working to interdict drugs at their source as well as en route to the United States and (4) increasing international cooperation on the drug issue.

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III. New Community - Fighting Crime



"I made a commitment, a promise to put 100,000 more police on our streets, because there is simply no better crime fighting tool to be found. And I intend to keep that promise. Anyone on Capitol Hill who wants to play partisan politics with police officers for America should listen carefully: I will veto any effort to repeal or undermine the 100,000 police commitment, period. "

-- President Clinton

February 11, 1995

The Toughest, Smartest Crime Bill in History

- ❑ **Breaking Gridlock.** In 1994, after more than 6 years of gridlock, a bipartisan majority in Congress passed the smartest, toughest crime bill in the nation's history -- The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.
- ❑ **Unprecedented Support.** The Crime Bill passed with the strong support of every major law enforcement organization in the country, as well as prosecutors, mayors, county executives and other state and local officials of both parties.
- ❑ **Cut and Invest.** The Crime Bill was paid for by cutting the federal bureaucracy by more than 250,000 people over five years. By using the savings to give states and localities the tools and resources they need to fight crime, the Crime Bill signaled the dawn of a new day in Washington.
- ❑ **Under Budget and Ahead of Schedule.** And by cutting the red tape and implementing the new law in as simple, non-bureaucratic and non-political a manner as possible, support for the Crime Bill has become even more broad-based and bipartisan.



Crime Bill's Four Point Plan

More Police and Community Policing

- ❑ Law enforcement experts agree that the single most important thing we can do to reduce crime is to put more police on the street. The President's plan to put 100,000 more police on the street in community policing represents the federal government's biggest commitment ever to local law enforcement -- \$8.8 billion -- or an almost 20% increase in the nation's police force levels.

- This plan is working. Half the nation's law enforcement agencies -- from jurisdictions of all sizes throughout the country -- have received grants to hire more than 17,000 new police officers.

Tougher Penalties and More Prison Space

- The Crime Bill includes tough new punishments and more prison cells to help keep criminals behind bars. It includes:
 - a targeted three strikes and you're out provision to keep career violent offenders behind bars for life;
 - the death penalty for the murder of a federal law enforcement officer and other heinous crimes
 - increased penalties for sex offenders and a registration requirement for sexually violent offenders;
 - \$7.9 billion for 100,000 more prison cells to help states make sure that violent offenders serve their full sentences; and
 - \$1.9 billion to help states pay for the costs of incarcerating criminal aliens.

Tough, Smart Strategy on Youth Crime

- Youth crime and violence is at the heart of America's current crime crisis. While overall crime rates have been dropping, kids today are increasingly the perpetrators --and the victims -- of some of society's most violent crimes.
- **Be Firm.** The Crime Bill sends a strong "no gangs, guns and drugs" message to the 6% of young criminals who commit a majority of serious crimes. It bans handguns for juveniles; creates stiff penalties for crime-committing gang members; establishes Boot Camps and Drug Courts to discipline first-time, non-violent and drug offenders; and provides for hardened young criminals -- as young as 13-years-old -- to be tried as adults.
- **Be Smart.** But the Crime Bill also reinforces the difference between right and wrong by giving at-risk kids positive alternatives to say "yes" to. It invests billions of dollars for after-school, weekend and summer programs for at risk youth; prevention block grants; and other efforts that provide kids with safe havens and teach them the dangers of drugs, gangs and guns.

Keep Guns Out of the Hands of Criminals

- In 1993, Congress passed the Brady Bill to provide for a 5-day waiting period and background check of prospective handgun buyers. On the books for 1-year now, the Brady Law has stopped tens of thousands of fugitives, felons and other prohibited buyers from purchasing handguns. The Crime Bill provides funds to help states update their criminal history records.
- The Crime Bill also includes a ban on the 19 deadliest assault weapons and their copies, but specifically protects more than 650 legitimate sporting weapons. Cop-killing assault weapons, like the Uzi and the TEC-10, are the weapons of choice for drug dealers, gangs and terrorists -- not hunters and sportsmen.

Move Forward, Not Backward

- Unfortunately, the new majority in Congress wants to undo last year's Crime Bill. They want to scrap the President's 100,000 more police plan, delete every single prevention program and repeal the hard-fought ban on assault weapons. Nothing could be more offensive to law enforcement professionals, state and local officials and ordinary Americans than turning back the clock on crime -- and turning back to the days of more political rhetoric.
- Certainly there's much more we can do to reduce crime and violence -- and we must. Crime continues to be the number one concern for millions of working families. But we need to put new ideas on the table and work to do more -- not less -- for the American people.

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