

## CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS MEETING AMERICA'S CHALLENGES

### *Challenge:*

#### To Cherish Our Children and Strengthen Our Families

- Signed the Family and Medical Leave Act (Feb. 5, 1993) to enable workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a family member without fear of losing their jobs.
- Expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to provide tax relief for 15 million working families.
- Reached agreements with the media and entertainment industry to develop a television ratings system and to add three hours per week of educational programming.
- Signed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Feb. 8, 1996) that requires the V-chip in new televisions.
- Collected a record \$11 billion in child support in 1995 - an almost 40% increase over 1992.
- Proposed targeted measures to cut off children's access to tobacco and reduce their appeal to children.
- Established a Childhood Immunization Initiative to ensure healthy futures for all children.
- Signed the Personal Responsibility and Worker Opportunity Reconciliation Act (Aug. 22, 1996) to end welfare as we know it and to emphasize work, independence, and responsibility. The President has also granted waivers to 43 states to give them the flexibility to reform the welfare system at the local level.
- Worked with community, business, and religious leaders to form a national campaign to reduce the teen pregnancy rate.
- Increased NIH funding for breast cancer research by 65% and overall funding for AIDS by 37%.

### *Challenge:*

#### To Provide Educational Opportunity for the New Century

- Signed the Student Loan Reform Act (Aug. 10, 1993) to make college more affordable for millions of students.
- Signed the National Service Act (Sept. 21, 1993) to create AmeriCorps, which is allowing 45,000 young people to serve their communities while earning money for college.
- Increased Head Start by nearly \$800 million.
- Signed the Improving America's Schools Act to give schools greater flexibility to use federal aid and to develop effective teaching innovations to help economically disadvantaged students achieve their full potential.
- Signed the School-to-Work Opportunities Act to provide students with work-based learning and new pathways from high school to good jobs and post-secondary education.
- Signed the Goals 2000: Educate America Act (March 31, 1994) to raise academic standards.
- Launched an Education Technology Initiative to connect every classroom to the Information Superhighway by the year 2000.
- Proposed his Hope Scholarship Plan to make two years of college as universal as high school.
- Challenged Congress to make \$10,000 of college tuition tax-deductible each year, to provide \$1,000 merit scholarships for the top 5% percent of all high school graduates, and to expand Pell Grants and work-study programs.

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

- Won enactment of the largest deficit-cutting plan in history -- cutting the deficit by more than half within four years.
- Provided sound economic policies that have created 10.5 million new jobs -- 93% in the private sector.
- Brought unemployment down to 5.1% -- a 7-year low.
- Brought the combined rate of unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rates to its lowest level since 1968.
- Proposed a balanced budget in 7 years based on Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates.
- Made tax cuts available to 90% of small businesses.
- Signed the Small Business Protection Act (Aug. 20, 1996) to raise the minimum wage for the first time in 5 years and to give working Americans the opportunity to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.
- Signed the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (Kassebaum-Kennedy Bill, Aug. 21, 1996) to protect workers from losing their health insurance if they change or lose their jobs and to prevent the denial of coverage due to pre-existing conditions.
- Increased exports 31% by signing tough trade agreements (NAFTA, GATT) and by opening up foreign markets.
- Highest annual number of new business incorporations since World War II.
- Signed the Retirement Protection Act to safeguard the pensions of more than 40 million workers and retirees.
- Proposed a \$2,600 job-training voucher to give unemployed workers the freedom to choose the job training program that is right for them.

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

- Signed a tough Crime Bill (Sept. 13, 1994) that is putting 100,000 new police officers on our streets -- 44,000 have already been funded.
- Signed the Brady Bill (Nov. 30, 1993), which has already prevented more than 60,000 fugitives, felons, and other criminals from buying handguns.
- Signed the Assault Weapons Ban as part of the Crime Bill -- taking 19 of the deadliest assault weapons off of our streets.
- Developed a comprehensive National Drug Control Strategy to reduce drug use through law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and interdiction.
- Imposed a "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.
- Signed Megan's Law (May 17, 1996) to require states to disclose information about released child molesters and sexual and violent offenders.
- Signed the Violence Against Women Act as part of the Crime Bill.
- Established nationwide 24-hour domestic violence hotline.
- Signed the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act to expand security and to prevent violence.
- Signed Presidential Directive enforcing a "Zero Tolerance" gun policy in public schools.
- Introduced Operation Safe Home to fight crime in public housing.