

President Clinton Fighting for Quality Health Care

September 23, 1996

"For working families to succeed in the new economy, they must be able to buy health insurance that they do not lose when they change jobs or when someone in their family gets sick. We must do more to make quality health care available to every American."

President Bill Clinton

President Clinton is fighting hard to make health care available to all Americans, improve the quality of health care, strengthen Medicare, and expand coverage. The President is fighting for healthy families by:

- Signing the Health Insurance Reform Act (Kassebaum-Kennedy Bill) which expands and
 protects access to health insurance by limiting exclusions for pre-existing conditions and
 allowing individuals to take their health insurance with them when they change or lose their
 jobs;
- Enacting the Family and Medical Leave Act, enabling workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a sick family member without fear of losing their jobs;
- Fighting for legislation to require insurers to pay for new mothers and their babies to stay
 in the hospital for 48 hours, and 96 hours if the mother has delivered by Cesarean;
- Fighting for legislation to ensure that people who need treatment for mental illness get the treatment they need without discrimination;
- Establishing a comprehensive Childhood Immunization Initiative to increase vaccinations and help ensure healthier futures for all children. In 1995, 75 percent of 2-year-old children were fully immunized, a record high;
- Fighting to reduce rising health care costs. Last year, medical care inflation had the smallest increase in nearly two decades;
- Proposing a bold initiative to cut off children's access to tobacco products and to reduce their appeal to children;
- Fighting for full funding of the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) to expand nutrition services for mothers and their children; and
- Increasing funding for breast cancer research by 65 percent.

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