

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S HEALTH CARE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Signed the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill which will benefit as many as 25 million Americans and ensure that



- Increased the health insurance deduction for self-employed Americans from 30% to 80%, eliminating the discriminatory tax treatment of the self-employed.
- Strengthened the Medicare Trust Fund through his 1993 economic package by three years, without a single Republican vote.
- Increased National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for biomedical research by 16 percent, including a 76 percent increase in breast cancer research.
- Protected children from tobacco products and advertising by proposing to eliminate easy access to tobacco products and advertisements that make tobacco appealing to kids.
- Increased funding for the VA health system by nearly two billion dollars, treating 94,000 more veterans.
- Increased funding for AIDS research, prevention and treatment to historic levels, nearly a 40 percent increase since President Clinton took office.
- Strengthened fraud and abuse prevention and enforcement initiatives to improve our ability to target and prosecute “bad apple” health providers. Builds on “Operation Restore Trust,” an initiative to combat health care fraud and abuse which has had an impressive ten dollar return in recoveries for every dollar spent.

NEW INITIATIVES

- Extending the life of the Medicare Trust Fund until 2006, while balancing the budget and providing more plan choice for beneficiaries.
- Providing a “Workers’ Transition Initiative” to ensure that previously insured people who are looking for a new job can afford to keep their health care.
- Preserving the Medicaid guarantee of health care coverage and assuring quality protections, while providing for more flexibility for states to administer the program.

REPUBLICANS ON MEDICAID

The Dole-Gingrich Plan, which President Clinton vetoed, would have eliminated the Medicaid guarantee for 36 million older Americans, children, people with disabilities, and pregnant women.

- The Republicans insisted on \$163 billion in federal cuts from the Medicaid program. Combined state and federal Medicaid cuts could have exceeded \$400 billion if states had spent only the minimum required under their plan.
- The Republican plan would have “block granted” the Medicaid program, undermining the guarantee of coverage. The reduction in federal funds could force states to deny coverage for nearly 8 million people in 2002, including:
 - 3.8 million children;
 - 1.3 million people with disabilities;
 - 850,000 older Americans; and
 - 330,000 nursing home residents.

Their proposal would have undermined health care for millions of Americans.

- Could have forced many older Americans and people with disabilities to sell their home to qualify for nursing home benefits.
- Undermined protections against spousal impoverishment that were signed into law by President Reagan in 1988. This law has protected spouses of 450,000 nursing home residents, most of whom are women.

Again and again President Clinton said no to the extreme Republican proposals and preserved the guarantee of health care coverage for millions of Americans.

- President Clinton vetoed the 1995 Dole-Gingrich budget which could cut Medicaid by \$163 billion.
- President Clinton stood strong again on Medicaid by refusing to sign a welfare bill that contained a proposal to block grant Medicaid and cut up to \$250 billion from the program.

In 1995, the Republican budget contained \$245 billion in tax cuts, and their Medicaid cuts could have exceeded \$163 billion. Now, Republicans are proposing \$548 billion in tax cuts. What kind of extreme Medicaid cuts will they come up with to pay for that?

REPUBLICANS ON MEDICARE

"I was there, fighting the fight, one of twelve, voting against Medicare in 1965 . . . because we knew it wouldn't work."

—Senator Bob Dole, 1995

"No, we don't get rid of it [traditional Medicare] in round one because we don't think it's politically smart . . . but we believe it's going to wither on the vine."

—Speaker Newt Gingrich, 1995

To pay for a \$245 billion tax cut for the wealthy, the 1995 Dole-Gingrich budget would have cut Medicare by \$270 billion. Today, the Republicans want a \$548 billion tax cut . . . who knows what they will cut from Medicare this time.

- *"Where on earth does he come up with that kind of dough...? from popular programs, such as Medicare and environmental projections. But candidate Dole knows it's bad politics to admit that now."* Business Week 8/19/96.
- *"You're gonna have to look at Medicare . . . I would never say it if I were him [Dole] until after the election. No way. No way. Absolutely. I mean I'm not running this year so I can say it and tell the truth."*

—Senator Al D'Amato, Dole Campaign Co-Chair, 8/12/96

The Dole-Gingrich budget would have hurt older Americans, charging them more for Medicare, providing them with a second class health care system.

- In spite of their claims to the contrary, the 1995 Dole-Gingrich budget would have increased Medicare premiums by \$268 per couple this year alone and by at least \$1700 by 2002.
- The Dole-Gingrich proposal would have cut total Medicare spending by \$2,800 per couple in 2002, compared to current law.
- The Republicans' excessive Medicare cuts would have forced many rural and urban hospitals to close and undermine quality of care.

President Clinton is defending our values. His balanced budget proves that the Republicans' excessive cuts, premium hikes, and damaging structural changes are not necessary to balance the budget and strengthen the Medicare Trust Fund.

FREQUENTLY ASKED HEALTH CARE Qs&As

Q: How can the Administration claim that the Republican Medicare proposals that the President vetoed are cuts when actual spending per beneficiary would have increased from \$4,900 to \$7,100 between 1996 and 2002?

A: The Dole-Gingrich budget IS a cut in Medicare. When compared to current law, the Dole-Gingrich plan would have cut spending from \$8,500 per beneficiary under current law to \$7,100 – a \$1,400 cut. In premium increases alone, married Medicare beneficiaries would have had to pay \$1,700 more; they would surely define that as a cut.

Q: Is it true that there was only a \$7 difference between premiums under the Republican plan and President Clinton's proposal?

A: There was never only a \$7 difference between premiums proposed by the Republicans and premiums in the President's plan. A true "apples to apples" comparison reveals that their premiums were \$268 higher per couple this year alone and at least \$1,700 higher over seven years.

Q: What is the President's position on Medicare Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs)?

A: Although President Clinton has agreed to a limited test of MSAs for non-Medicare beneficiaries, he is concerned that MSAs would have an adverse effect on the Medicare program. The Republicans Medicare MSAs would attract healthier and wealthier beneficiaries, leaving sicker and more costlier beneficiaries in a weakened traditional Medicare program . . . leaving Medicare to "wither on the vine."

Q: How do you respond to the Republican claim that the Kassebaum/Kennedy bill is really a Republican initiative that the President could have signed three years ago if he hadn't threatened to veto the bill?

A: That is absolutely preposterous. In the last Congress, Republicans had no desire to pass any health care reform. As Senator Bennett (R-UT) stated, "Dole made it very clear that no bill is the strategy." It was the Republicans who consistently threatened the passage of Kassebaum/Kennedy this year, due to pressure from some insurers, by making it impossible to bring it up for a vote. Even Senator Kassebaum (R-KS) acknowledged that the President's reference to the bill in his State of the Union address and his constant advocacy for it pressured the Republicans to act.

Supporting Women and Families The Clinton Administration Record

Expanding Economic Opportunities for Families

- Signed the Family & Medical Leave Act
- Established National Child Care Information Center
- Expanded Earned Income Tax Credit, giving a tax cut to millions of working families
- Strengthened equal opportunity through affirmative action
- Increased enforcement of child support and introduced legislation that doubles federal child support collections
- Fighting for a federal budget that strengthens families, e.g., Medicare, Medicaid and supports education
- Supports welfare reform which combines work and responsibility

Making Our Homes and Communities Safer

- Signed Assault Weapons Ban and Brady Bill
- Signed the Violence Against Women Act, established to combat domestic violence
- Introduced Operation Safe Home to fight crime in public housing
- Put 100,000 new police on the street
- Supported Family Preservation and Support Act, providing services to prevent child abuse and neglect

Investing in Education and Training for Our Families

- Created and signed Student Loan Reform, saving students and taxpayers money
- Expanded Pell Grants for 3 million college students
- Increased Head Start funding, improving teaching facilities and allowing for more students
- Signed School-to-Work Opportunities Act, preparing students for careers and advanced education
- Signed Goals 2000; Educate America Act, setting higher standards
- Signed reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act, providing education for its impoverished students
- Supported Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act
- Signed National Service Act, giving tuition assistance in return for community service

Ensuring Safer Air, Water and Food

- Signed order requiring polluters to disclose information and expanded public's right-to-know about toxic releases
- Issued new standard to cut pollution from chemical plants 90% by 1997
- Made drinking water safer by requiring elimination of contaminants
- Launched "reinventing environmental regulation," cutting red tape and better protecting public health
- Improved meat and poultry inspection systems, increasing safety of the food supply

Expanding Access to Quality Health Care

- Made improvement of women's health a priority
- Signed legislation requiring that women, including lesbians and minorities, are included in National Institutes of Health (NIH)-supported research
- Increased funding for breast cancer research by 65%
- Committed to making abortion safe, legal and rare
- Revoked Reagan-Bush restrictions on abortion counseling
- Signed Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, ensuring clinic safety
- Developed Childhood Immunization Plan, ensuring vaccinations and a healthier future for all children
- Developed healthy school meal initiative for students
- Placed Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) on full-funding path
- Ensured safety, effectiveness and availability of mammograms
- Increased resources to reach women affected by HIV/AIDS
- Established first Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health

Generating Economic Opportunities for Women

- Small Business Administration (SBA) lending to women increased by 86 percent
- Department of Labor's Women's Bureau launched Honor Roll initiative, encouraging employers to implement family-friendly policies that benefit women
- Expanded the SBA's public-private Women's Demonstration Program, providing business skills and training for women
- Created the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise, eliminating barriers to economic development within federal agencies
- Increased federal procurement contracts for women in both percentage and dollar amounts

Supporting Women as Partners in Decision Making

- 42 percent of President's appointees are women, highest rate ever
- Five women hold Cabinet-level positions, highest ever
- 59 percent of all President judicial nominees are women and minorities, highest ever
- Second President to nominate a woman to the Supreme Court
- Opened almost 260,000 positions for women in the military
- Established Older Women's Initiative, bringing focus on issues impacting older women and their families
- Created President's Interagency Council on Women, bringing home the agreements reached at U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women to benefit American women and families
- Established White House Office for Women's Initiatives & Outreach

Paid for by the Democratic National Committee

