

in your life every day as the nurses of America are in their lives.

This country works with opportunity and responsibility; we cannot have one without the other. And if we're going to build an America that will be the world's leading source of peace and freedom and prosperity in the 21st century, if we're going to keep the American dream alive for all of us, we have to have both those things. You embody it in your life. We're trying to

embody it in the policies we advocate. And I ask for your continued support. You've made me very happy, personally, here today, but you make me very proud to be President of an America with people like you. Let's keep fighting to make it better.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at noon at the Washington Convention Center.

Memorandum on the Child Support Initiative *June 18, 1996*

Memorandum for the Secretary of Health and Human Services

Subject: Child Support Initiative

I hereby direct you to implement the plan I am announcing today to strengthen the child support system and promote parental responsibility.

I direct you to exercise your legal authority to take the following steps to implement that plan:

- 1) issue proposed regulations relating to paternity establishment that:
- (a) clarify the definition, under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, of "cooperation" with paternity establishment by requiring that a mother provide both the name of the father and other identifying information deemed appropriate by the State (except when there is good cause, such as being in danger of domestic violence, for not cooperating);
- (b) require all applicants for assistance under the AFDC program to cooperate with pa-

ternity establishment efforts prior to the receipt of assistance; and

- (c) require that applicants for assistance under the AFDC program be referred to the State child support agency within 2 days of application, so that the agency can initiate a legal paternity action; and
- 2) implement a pilot program matching new-hire data collected by participating States with Federal Parent Locator Service data in order to better track parents owing child support obligations who have taken a job in another State.

The plan I have outlined will help strengthen child support operations by toughening the paternity establishment requirements for applicants for welfare and by enabling States to locate, and withhold wages from, child support obligors who have taken a job in another State. Its prompt implementation is integral to achieving our goal of promoting the American value of parental responsibility.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON