

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 2:15 p.m. in Langford Auditorium at Vanderbilt University. In his remarks, he referred to discussion participants Julie Moretz, chair, Family Advisory

Council, Medical College of Georgia Children's Medical Center; Anthony Watson, chairman and chief executive officer, New York HIP Health Plans; and Sheila Savannah, executive director, People in Partnership, a nonprofit organization working with recipients of mental health services.

Memorandum on Actions To Improve Children's Health Insurance Outreach

June 22, 1998

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Education, the Commissioner of Social Security

Subject: Federal Actions to Improve Children's Health Insurance Outreach

Last year, with bipartisan support from the Congress, I was pleased to sign into law the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This new program will help millions of children of working families obtain affordable and much-needed health insurance. As of today, 20 States have had their CHIP plans approved and most States have applied for approval.

Yet, as recent studies show, rapidly implementing CHIP and ensuring that all eligible children are enrolled in this new program or Medicaid has never been more important. This month, a major report from the Institute of Medicine confirmed that children without health insurance are more likely to be sick, less likely to be immunized, and less likely to receive medical treatment for illnesses, such as recurrent ear infections and asthma. Without treatment, these diseases can have lifelong consequences. Another study by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research concluded that there are 4.7 million uninsured children who are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid. Several million more will become eligible for CHIP as States implement their programs.

Only an intense, sustained campaign in both the public and private sectors can address the significant challenge of uninsured children. On February 18, 1998, I requested children's health

outreach proposals from eight Federal agencies on how the executive branch of the United States Government can assist in children's health insurance outreach.

In response, I received the *Report to the President: The Interagency Task Force on Children's Health Insurance Outreach*, which contains proposals on how to engage the executive branch in children's health outreach. I have reviewed this report and found these proposals sound, innovative, and worth undertaking.

Therefore, I hereby direct you to take the following actions to promote children's health insurance outreach, consistent with the missions of your agencies and the content and timelines of each potential initiative described in the *Report*.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure that the:

- Health Care Financing Administration, among other proposed actions, creates an on-line clearing house for outreach information and facilitates relationships between State Medicaid and CHIP agencies and community-based and private organizations to identify, educate, and enroll uninsured children in State health insurance programs;
- Health Resources and Services Administration, among other proposed actions, trains health care providers to help identify and enroll children in health insurance through its National Health Service Corps and Area Health Education Centers, which trains students and health providers and distributes information to families that use the community clinics that it funds;
- Administration for Children and Families, among other proposed actions, distributes

promotional material and applications for Medicaid and CHIP to the families they serve through Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Head Start sites, and subsidized child care sites;

- Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, among other proposed actions, supports investigator-initiated evaluations of outreach activities to better understand which outreach and enrollment strategies work best and to disseminate results to improve outreach performance;
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among other proposed actions, puts outreach referral information in its public health publications and pamphlets;
- Indian Health Service, among other proposed actions, integrates “train the trainer” techniques to educate select community members who can then provide information on health insurance to the rest of the community;
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, among other proposed actions, develops and implements an educational campaign for uninsured children with special needs.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall, among other proposed actions:

- Educate Regional and State directors of the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program and other Food and Nutrition Service programs on health care programs that are available to families with uninsured children and determine what information to give to these families; how to coordinate the application process to facilitate enrollment in CHIP and Medicaid; and how families applying for school lunch programs can receive information on health insurance;
- Provide information to the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service regional and State program staff and grantees and encourage dissemination of information to families regarding the CHIP and Medicaid programs.

The Secretary of Education shall, among other proposed actions:

- Educate and assist families through its Partnership for Family Involvement pro-

gram, which promotes family involvement in education, and includes employers, schools, education organizations, and community and religious groups.

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall, among other proposed actions:

- Provide information on children’s health outreach to applicants for competitive grants, and ask its directors of Public Housing Authorities and Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities to post or distribute this information.

The Secretary of Interior shall, among other proposed actions:

- Develop and distribute culturally relevant referral information to Native American families through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, especially focusing on tribal schools, colleges, and social services agencies.

The Secretary of Labor shall, among other proposed actions:

- Distribute Medicaid and CHIP outreach information through its Job Corps Centers, One-Stop Career Centers, welfare-to-work grant programs, and small businesses contacts.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall, among other proposed actions:

- Post children’s health outreach information for families at IRS walk-in centers and provide this information to Voluntary Income Tax Assistance sites.

The Commissioner of Social Security shall, among other proposed actions:

- Distribute information and/or applications for children’s health insurance in its SSA field office reception areas and provide to States names of families of children denied SSI so that States can send these families educational information and applications for children’s health insurance programs.

I also direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to continue to work with the above mentioned agencies to assist them in fulfilling these commitments, to engage new agencies and develop other commitments, and report back to me in 1 year on agency accomplishments.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON