

expands our GEAR UP and TRIO programs to prepare young people for college. It increases the maximum Pell grant to an all-time-high of \$3,750—part of the biggest expansion of college opportunity since the GI bill. And it boosts accountability with more funding for teacher training and for turning around failing schools. With this budget, we have now increased funding for the Department of Education by 76 percent since 1993—and targeted that funding to programs that work.

Second, in this budget, we're also passing our historic, bipartisan new markets and community renewal initiative—the most significant effort ever to help hard-pressed communities lift themselves up through private investment and entrepreneurship. With the help of our new markets tax credit, 40 strengthened empowerment zones, and 40 renewal communities, this initiative will spur billions of dollars in private investment and ensure that every American will share in Nation's economic prosperity.

Third, this budget reaffirms our longstanding commitment to expand access to quality health care for all Americans. It includes a multibillion dollar effort to provide low-income children, seniors, and people with disabilities, and those leaving welfare for work, with health care coverage. It expands preventive benefits like cancer and glaucoma screenings for Medicare beneficiaries. It ensures quality health care services for those beneficiaries by investing approximately \$30 billion in hospitals, home health

agencies, hospices, nursing homes, and managed care plans. It will establish a new program to provide families caring for aging and ill relatives with essential support services, such as adult day care. It includes a new program to provide people with disabilities with community-based health care services. It increases funding for AIDS prevention, research, and treatment at home and abroad. It boosts support for graduate medical education at children's hospitals and for food safety efforts. It includes new efforts to improve nursing home quality and a downpayment to eliminate racial health disparities. And it includes a historic \$20.3 billion investment in biomedical research, nearly doubling since 1993 our investment in the National Institutes of Health.

Finally, this budget will allow nearly 700,000 immigrants who have worked, lived, and paid taxes in America for years to stay in the United States legally without fear of being separated from their families.

Every year since 1993, I have worked with Congress to craft fiscally responsible budgets that are true to our values and that invest in the capacity of the American people to seize the new opportunities of the 21st century. This year's budget does the same by continuing to pay down the debt and invest in education, research, health care, and other priorities. I am confident that this budget will help keep our progress strong and our prosperity going in the years ahead.

Statement on the Northern Ireland Peace Process

December 15, 2000

I am delighted that loyalist paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland have today committed themselves to an open-ended cessation of hostilities and developed peaceful mechanisms to address disputes that may arise. This action responds to the overwhelming desire of

the people of Northern Ireland to see their peace flourish and endure, which I sensed during my visit this week. I congratulate the loyalist political leaders who I know worked so hard to bring this about.