

microtechnology necessary to identify and zap cancers when they're just in infant stages that are presently unidentifiable, the whole world will be very different.

You can all participate in that. But these decisions do not happen by accident. People who have other things to think about have to make decisions about how to allocate public funds for research. People who are under all different kinds of pressures have to make decisions about which bills will pass and which won't, in terms of extending coverage. And you have to enter this fray with the same energy that you brought

to this fight. And just remember, all the best stuff is still out there. Go get it.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to breast cancer survivor Tonia Conine, who introduced the President. H.R. 4386, approved October 24, 2000, was assigned Public Law No. 106-354. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Senator Hillary Clinton.

## Memorandum on Preventive Health Services at the Federal Workplace *January 4, 2001*

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive  
Departments and Agencies*

*Subject:* Preventive Health Services at the  
Federal Workplace

Today, as we celebrate the enactment of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act that I signed into law in October of last year, I am heartened by the progress being made in expanding access to preventive care for cancer and other serious diseases. We know a great deal about screening procedures that can detect diseases early, and about behaviors, such as smoking cessation and sun avoidance, that can greatly reduce a person's risk of disease. The challenge that remains is to ensure that all Americans not only take advantage of the screening programs and other effective preventive measures that are available and appropriate, but that they make positive changes in their lifestyles before disease develops.

The workplace is a logical place to provide employees with health information and services to help them learn about preventive health. The Federal Government, the Nation's largest employer, has already developed many programs to encourage preventive health care for its employees. These measures, available to Federal employees through the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, cover a broad range of preventive health services, including screening for prostate, cervical, colorectal, and breast cancer, and screening for sickle cell anemia, blood lead level, and blood cholesterol level. The pro-

grams also provide for all recommended childhood immunizations, well child care, and adult preventive care visits. In addition, the Federal personnel system provides employees with considerable flexibility in scheduling their hours of work and taking time off for medical needs, including routine examinations and preventive screenings. Many agencies offer creative, effective employee health programs that provide opportunities for employees to take advantage of preventive health screenings at the worksite.

There is still room for progress. Therefore, I am today directing Federal departments and agencies to review their policies and make maximum use of existing work schedule and leave flexibilities to allow Federal employees to take advantage of screening programs and other effective preventive health measures. Each department and agency should also inform its employees of the various work schedule and leave flexibilities available to them to participate in these preventive screenings and examinations. Such flexibilities include promoting alternative work schedules (flexible and compressed work schedules), which allow for a variety of working arrangements tailored to fit the needs of individual employees, granting leave under the Federal Government's sick and annual leave programs, and granting excused absence to employees to participate in agency-sponsored preventive health activities. In the case of employees with fewer than 80 hours (two weeks) of accrued sick leave, I am directing each department and

agency to establish a policy that provides up to 4 hours of excused absence each year, without loss of pay or charge to leave, for participation in preventive health screenings.

I am also directing agencies to develop or expand programs offered at the worksite to help employees understand their risks for disease, obtain preventive health services, and make healthy lifestyle choices, and to share these initiatives with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) within 120 days. The OPM will use this information to identify agency best practices. Finally, I direct the OPM to prepare guidance to assist agencies in carrying out this directive.

Agencies will carry out this policy within available appropriations, and to the extent permitted by law and consistent with the Administration's budget priorities.

I want the Federal Government to serve as a model for the rest of the country. While Federal agencies have led the way in many instances, I want to go even further in demonstrating that preventive health care for all employees is not only desirable, but also very practical and sensible.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

## Statement on the Report on the National Drug Control Strategy *January 4, 2001*

The 2001 Annual Report on our National Drug Control Strategy issued today by National Drug Policy Director Barry McCaffrey shows that America is making real progress in the fight against illegal drugs but that we must never give up on making our children's futures safe and drug-free. The most recent National Household Survey on Drug Abuse found that drug use by youths aged 12 to 17 has declined 21 percent since 1997.

Adolescents increasingly disapprove of illegal drugs, and a growing number are using positive peer pressure to help friends stay away from drugs. We have made similar progress combating illegal drug organizations that traffic in these poisons. Additionally, drug-related murders are down to their lowest level in over a decade.

Despite our progress, drugs continue to exact a tremendous toll on our Nation. Studies report an increase in the use of steroids and club drugs, such as ecstasy, by youths, and too many

young people are still using alcohol, tobacco, and illegal substances. In addition, one in four inmates in State prisons and more than 60 percent of Federal inmates are drug offenders. We need to continue to build on successful initiatives like our Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign so our children can make smart decisions and stay away from drugs. We must also make investments to improve after-school opportunities so our children are supervised during the hours when they are most vulnerable to drugs and crime. In addition, we have a responsibility to reduce the treatment gap as well as help close the revolving prison door of drug offenders by expanding drug courts and drug testing and treatment programs, which have been shown to cut recidivism by as much as 44 percent.

I urge the 107th Congress to continue working together in the bipartisan spirit of my administration so that we may tackle these important challenges and eliminate the devastating impact of drugs on our Nation's communities.