Executive Order 12835—Establishment of the National Economic Council
January 25, 1993

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 105, 107, and 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is established the National Economic Council ("the Council").

Sec. 2. Membership. The Council shall comprise the:

(a) President, who shall serve as Chairman of the Council;
(b) Vice President;
(c) Secretary of State;
(d) Secretary of the Treasury;
(e) Secretary of Agriculture;
(f) Secretary of Commerce;
(g) Secretary of Labor;
(h) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;
(i) Secretary of Transportation;
(j) Secretary of Energy;
(k) Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
(l) Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers;
(m) Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
(n) United States Trade Representative;
(o) Assistant to the President for Economic Policy;
(p) Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy;
(q) National Security Adviser;
(r) Assistant to the President for Science and Technology Policy; and
(s) Such other officials of executive departments and agencies as the President may, from time to time, designate.

Sec. 3. Meetings of the Council. The President, or upon his direction, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy ("the Assistant"), may convene meetings of the Council. The President shall preside over the meetings of the Council, provided that in his absence the Vice President, and in his absence the Assistant, will preside.

Sec. 4. Functions. (a) The principal functions of the Council are: (1) to coordinate the economic policy-making process with respect to domestic and international economic issues; (2) to coordinate economic policy advice to the President; (3) to ensure that economic policy decisions and programs are consistent with the President's stated goals, and to ensure that those goals are being effectively pursued; and (4) to monitor implementation of the President's economic policy agenda. The Assistant may take such actions, including drafting a Charter, as may be necessary or appropriate to implement such functions.

(b) All executive departments and agencies, whether or not represented on the Council, shall coordinate economic policy through the Council.

(c) In performing the foregoing functions, the Assistant will, when appropriate, work in conjunction with the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and the Assistant to the President for National Security.

(d) The Secretary of the Treasury will continue to be the senior economic official in the executive branch and the President's chief economic spokesperson. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, as the President's principal budget spokesperson, will continue to be the senior budget official in the executive branch. The Council of Economic Advisers will continue its traditional analytic, forecasting and advisory functions.

Sec. 5. Administration. (a) The Council may function through established or ad hoc committees, task forces or interagency groups.

(b) The Council shall have a staff to be headed by the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy. The Council shall have such staff and other assistance as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this order.

(c) All executive departments and agencies shall cooperate with the Council and provide such assistance, information, and advice to
the Council as the Council may request, to
the extent permitted by law.

William J. Clinton

The White House,

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NOTE: This Executive order was published in the
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Remarks on Health Care Reform and
an Exchange With Reporters
January 25, 1993

I want to say good afternoon to members
of the press. We have just finished a very
lively discussion about the massive task be-
fore us in health care. Vice President Gore
and I made a strong commitment to the
American people during the last election that
we would present to the United States Con-
gress, within 100 days, a plan that would take
strong action to control health care costs in
America and to begin to provide for the
health care needs of all Americans.

As I traveled across the country last year,
no stories moved me more than the health
care stories. As I think all of you know, many
of the people in our Faces of Hope luncheon
last week during the Inaugural were people
who were struggling to overcome incredible
adversity occasioned by their health care
problems. We've met elderly people choos-
ing every week between medicine and food;
we've met people forced to leave their jobs
to get on public assistance to deal with chil-
dren with terrific problems; we've met count-
less people who can't change their jobs be-
cause they or someone in their family have
had health care problems.

You will all remember, at the economic
conference that we sponsored in Little Rock,
perhaps the overwhelming concern of the
business people there, of all sizes, was doing
something about the cost and the availability
of health care. When the Vice President and
I met with the big three auto makers and
the president of the United Auto Workers,
one again they said, if you want to do some-
thing to help rebuild the auto industry, do
something to control health care costs. And
as Mr. Panetta just said again, in a rather
plaintive way before you came in, there is
no way we will ever get control of the Fed-
eral budget deficit unless we do something about
health care.

The message is pretty simple. It's time to
make sense of America's health care system.
It's time to bring costs under control and to
make our families and businesses secure. It's
time to make good on the American promise
that too many people have talked about for
too long, while we have continued to spend
more than 30 percent more of our income
on health care than any other nation in the
world, get less for it, and see 100,000 Ameri-
cans a month losing their health insurance.

As a first step in responding to the de-
mands of literally millions of Americans,
today I am announcing the formation of the
President's Task Force on National Health
Reform. Although the issue is complex, the
task force's mission is simple: Build on the
work of the campaign and the transition, lis-
ten to all parties, and prepare health care
reform legislation to be submitted to Con-
gress within 100 days of our taking office.

This task force will be chaired by the First
Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and will in-
clude the Secretaries of Health and Human
Services, Treasury, Defense, Veterans Af-
fairs, Commerce, Labor, as well as the Direc-
tor of the Office of Management and Budget
and senior White House staff members.

I am grateful that Hillary has agreed to
chair this task force and not only because
it means she'll be sharing some of the heat
I expect to generate. As many of you know,
while I was Governor of my State, Hillary
chaired the Arkansas Education Standards
Committee, which created public school ac-
creditation standards that have since become
a model for national reform. She served as
my designee on the Southern Regional Task
Force on Infant Mortality, was also chair of
our State's rural health committee in 1979
and 1980, a time in which we initiated a num-
ber of health care reforms that benefit the
people of my State to the present day. And
on the board of the Arkansas Children's Hos-