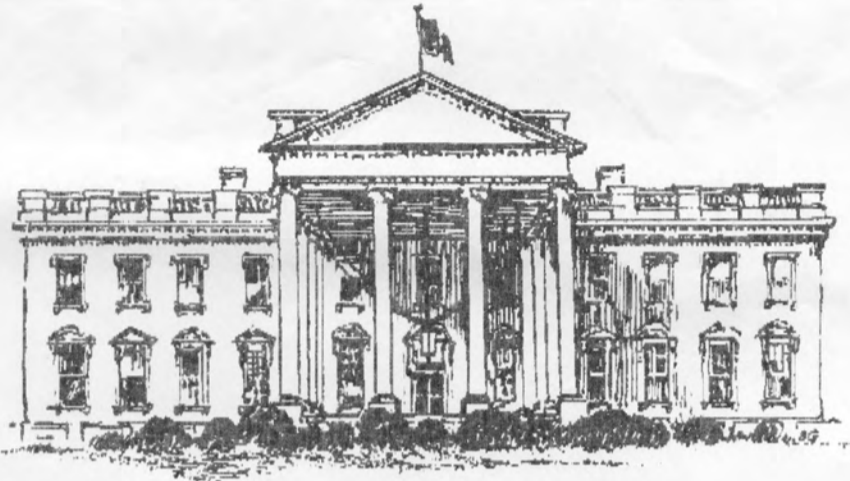


To: Edna Louise Saffy

From: Marilyn DiGiacobbe

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## THE WHITE HOUSE

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To: Edna Louise Saffy  
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**ENDING WELFARE AS WE KNOW IT****July 31, 1996**

*"I will sign this bill. First and foremost because the current system is broken. Second, because Congress has made many of the changes I sought. And, third, because even though serious problems remain in the non-welfare reform provisions of the bill, this is the best chance we will have for a long, long time to complete the work of ending welfare as we know it by moving people from welfare to work, demanding responsibility and doing better by children."*

- President Clinton, July 31, 1996

- \* **A broken system.** President Clinton will sign the current welfare bill because the current welfare system undermines the basic values of work, responsibility and family, trapping generation after generation in dependency and hurting the very people it was designed to help.
- \* **A last, best chance.** President Clinton believes that passage and enactment of this bill is the last best chance to make welfare what it was meant to be -- a second chance, not a way of life. The bill presents an historic opportunity to finish the work of ending welfare as we know it, an opportunity the President has decided to seize.
- \* **A much improved bill.** Because of President Clinton's earlier vetoes, objections and improvements, today's bill is significantly better than previous versions. It is **strong on work**, providing \$4 billion more for child care, and protects children by maintaining health and safety standards for day care. Also, the bill is **strong on children**. It keeps the national nutritional safety net intact by eliminating the food stamp cap and the optional block grant, and dropping the deep cuts in school lunch, child welfare and help for disabled children.
- \* **Rewarding work, demanding responsibility.** President Clinton has always believed that the best anti-poverty program is still real work and a good job. This bill is about emphasizing to America that we must reward work and demand responsibility.
- \* **Parts of the bill still need to be fixed.** President Clinton has pledged to fix the non-welfare portions of the bill, including nutrition and immigration issues, which he believes run counter to the best interests of America. For example:
  - \* Congress insisted on a cut that would repeal the Excess Shelter Reduction, which helps some of our hardest pressed working families. This provision is a mistake, and the President will work to correct it.
  - \* Congressional leadership insisted on attaching a provision that will hurt legal immigrants in America, people who work hard for their families, pay taxes and serve in our military. These immigrant families with children who fall on hard times through no fault of their own should be eligible for medical and other help when they need it.

**A record of accomplishment.** Over the past three and a half years President Clinton has done everything in his power as President to promote work and responsibility, working with 41 states to give them 69 welfare reform experiments. The Administration has also required teen mothers to stay in school, required federal employees to pay their child support, and cracked down on people who owe child support and crossed state lines. *As a result, child support collections are up 40 percent, to \$11 billion, and there are 1.3 million fewer people on welfare today than there were when President Clinton took office.*