

Sent: Tue, 20 Jan 2004 20:26:10 -0500
From: "Besanceney, Brian R." </O=EOP/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE

b(6), b(7c), b(7e), b(7f)
b(7c)
b(7e)
b(7f)

b(6), b(7c), b(7e), b(7f)

.....

b(6), b(7c), b(7e), b(7f)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220
221
222
223
224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320
321
322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
330
331
332
333
334
335
336
337
338
339
340
341
342
343
344
345
346
347
348
349
350
351
352
353
354
355
356
357
358
359
360
361
362
363
364
365
366
367
368
369
370
371
372
373
374
375
376
377
378
379
380
381
382
383
384
385
386
387
388
389
390
391
392
393
394
395
396
397
398
399
400
401
402
403
404
405
406
407
408
409
410
411
412
413
414
415
416
417
418
419
420
421
422
423
424
425
426
427
428
429
430
431
432
433
434
435
436
437
438
439
440
441
442
443
444
445
446
447
448
449
450
451
452
453
454
455
456
457
458
459
460
461
462
463
464
465
466
467
468
469
470
471
472
473
474
475
476
477
478
479
480
481
482
483
484
485
486
487
488
489
490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
510
511
512
513
514
515
516
517
518
519
520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529
530
531
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
540
541
542
543
544
545
546
547
548
549
550
551
552
553
554
555
556
557
558
559
560
561
562
563
564
565
566
567
568
569
570
571
572
573
574
575
576
577
578
579
580
581
582
583
584
585
586
587
588
589
590
591
592
593
594
595
596
597
598
599
600
601
602
603
604
605
606
607
608
609
610
611
612
613
614
615
616
617
618
619
620
621
622
623
624
625
626
627
628
629
630
631
632
633
634
635
636
637
638
639
640
641
642
643
644
645
646
647
648
649
650
651
652
653
654
655
656
657
658
659
660
661
662
663
664
665
666
667
668
669
670
671
672
673
674
675
676
677
678
679
680
681
682
683
684
685
686
687
688
689
690
691
692
693
694
695
696
697
698
699
700
701
702
703
704
705
706
707
708
709
710
711
712
713
714
715
716
717
718
719
720
721
722
723
724
725
726
727
728
729
730
731
732
733
734
735
736
737
738
739
740
741
742
743
744
745
746
747
748
749
750
751
752
753
754
755
756
757
758
759
760
761
762
763
764
765
766
767
768
769
770
771
772
773
774
775
776
777
778
779
780
781
782
783
784
785
786
787
788
789
790
791
792
793
794
795
796
797
798
799
800
801
802
803
804
805
806
807
808
809
810
811
812
813
814
815
816
817
818
819
820
821
822
823
824
825
826
827
828
829
830
831
832
833
834
835
836
837
838
839
840
84

b(6), b(7c), b(7e), b(7f)

b(6), b(7c), b(7e), b(7f)

.....

b(6), b(7c), b(7e), b(7f)

1

b(6), b(7c), b(7e), b(7f)

|
:
|
:
|
:
|
:
|

b(6), b(7c), b(7e), b(7f)

Subject: FACT SHEET: New Initiatives in President Bush's State of the Union Address (embargoed for release at 9:01 PM)

[New Initiatives in SOTU Factsheet.pdf](#)

New Initiatives in President Bush's State of the Union Address

January 20, 2004

In his State of the Union Address, President Bush called on our Nation to complete the work begun during the last three years and to face the future with confidence and strength. To address America's most pressing needs, the President announced new initiatives to strengthen economic growth, further reform education and job training, address the rising cost of health care, and make America a more compassionate Nation.

Jobs for the 21st Century

- America's growing economy is also a changing economy, and President Bush wants to help Americans gain the skills needed to prosper in our new economy. President Bush announced *Jobs for the 21st Century* more than \$500 million for a series of measures to better prepare current and future workers for jobs in the new millennium.
- President Bush wants to help current workers get the training and skills they need to secure jobs in high-growth industries. He also wants to help better prepare high school students to enter higher education or the workforce. This initiative is especially important at a time when 80% of the fastest-growing jobs in the U.S. require higher education and many require math and science skills.
 - The President's *Jobs for the 21st Century* initiative would expand support through America's community colleges to help them train workers for the industries that are creating the most new jobs. It includes a \$250 million proposal to fund partnerships between community colleges and employers in high-demand job sectors, based on successful pilot programs launched by President Bush in 2001 and 2002.
 - President Bush's plan will improve the quality of education at our Nation's middle and high schools and better prepare students for success in higher education and the job market including \$100 million to help striving readers and \$120 million to improve math education.
 - The President's plan expands Advanced Placement programs in low-income schools and invites professionals with private-sector math and science experience to teach part-time in our high schools. As an incentive for students to take more demanding high school courses, it would provide larger grants for college under the Pell Grant program.

Making Health Care More Affordable

- The rapidly rising cost of health care is the main reason why millions of Americans lack health insurance today. To make insurance more affordable, the President proposed measures to address rising healthcare costs and help more Americans afford insurance.
- ***Tax-Free Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)***: As part of the Medicare prescription drug bill that President Bush signed into law last month, workers will now be able to take advantage of HSAs fully portable, tax-free savings accounts that can be used to pay for medical expenses incurred by individuals, spouses, or dependents. Contributions to HSAs by individuals are deductible, even if the taxpayer does not itemize, and contributions by an employer are not included in the individual's taxable income.
- ***Tax-free Insurance Premiums for HSAs***: President Bush proposed that individuals who buy catastrophic health care coverage as part of their new Health Savings Accounts, be allowed to deduct 100% of the premium from their taxes. This new deduction of health insurance premiums, which will be available to taxpayers whether or not they itemize, will make health coverage more affordable for millions of Americans who do not get coverage through their workplace.
- The President also called on Congress to establish refundable tax credits of up to \$1,000 for individuals and \$3,000 for families to help low-income workers buy health insurance coverage.
- The President called for Congress to pass Association Health Plans to enable small businesses to provide health coverage to more workers by allowing them to band together and negotiate lower insurance rates.
- President Bush proposed to double the budget to \$100 million for demonstration projects related to health information technology, which will save lives and help to reduce costs.

Doubling Our Efforts to Expand Democracy

- The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) was established by Congress during the Reagan Administration to expand democracy throughout the world. Governed by an independent, nonpartisan board of directors, the NED makes hundreds of grants each year to support pro-democracy groups in dozens of countries. The NED works in part through direct grants to NGOs and civil society groups fighting for democracy, human rights, religious tolerance, freedom of the press, and free elections. Last year, the NED budget totaled \$39.6 million. The President called for doubling the NED budget, allocating the additional \$40 million to programs in the Middle East.

Helping Young Americans Make Healthy Decisions

- ***Addressing the National Challenge of Teen Substance Abuse***: Approximately 1.4 million American teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17 are in need of drug treatment, according to

research done by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Data also show that, if a child does not start using drugs in his or her teen years, he or she is much less likely to develop a substance abuse problem later.

- In his State of the Union address, President Bush announced a new initiative to help young Americans avoid being ensnared by addiction. His budget for FY 2005 will include \$25 million a \$23 million increase for student drug testing program grants, extending the benefits of early intervention programs that have been proven in government, military, education, transportation, and private-sector workplaces. The President's anti-drug policies are working just last month, a leading national survey found that 400,000 fewer drug users among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders. This represents an 11% decline in drug use among these age groups, ahead of the President's two-year goal of 10%.
- ***Encouraging Role Models to Set a Good Example for Young Athletes:*** President Bush called on America's major sports leagues and athletes to end the use of performance-enhancing drugs. Their use by even a minority of elite athletes sets a dangerous example for the millions of young Americans, encouraging young people to take dangerous risks with their health and safety.
- The President will ask these leagues and athletes to implement stringent drug policies to set a healthier and more positive example for America's young people. These policies will also protect the integrity of their sports and ensure the health and well-being of athletes.
- ***Expanding Support for Teen Abstinence Promotion:*** Each year, three million American teenagers contract sexually transmitted diseases, causing emotional harm and serious health consequences, even death. President Bush announced a new initiative to educate teens and parents about the health risks associated with early sexual activity and provide the tools needed to help teens make responsible choices. The President's Fiscal Year 2005 budget would increase the funding for abstinence education programs to more than \$270 million. President Bush also directed the Department of Health and Human Services to develop research-based standards for model abstinence education curricula, and he called for a review of all Federal programming for youth addressing teen pregnancy prevention, family planning, and STD and HIV/AIDS prevention to ensure that the Federal government is sending the right messages to teens. He also announced a public education campaign designed to help parents communicate with their children about the health risks associated with early sexual activity.

Empowering Faith-Based and Community Charities to Help Those in Need

- Many faith-based organizations that have been effective in serving the poor have faced discrimination in their efforts to partner with the Federal government. The regulatory reforms instituted by President Bush in December, 2002 have remedied many of these problems, but should be protected by statute.
- President Bush announced his intent to seek legislation to put into law the principle of equal treatment for faith-based organizations in the Federal grants process and end discrimination against these charities. This legislation would ensure that more Americans in need would be able to get vital social services from the country's most effective charities, whether secular or faith-based organizations.

Protecting Communities by Reducing Recidivism Among Returning Inmates

- Some 600,000 prisoners who have completed their prison sentences will be released this year. Unfortunately, many of them will return to prison after committing another crime causing additional costs to themselves and society. To reduce the number of these prisoners committing new crimes, President Bush proposed a plan to harness the resources and experience of faith-based and community organizations in dealing with the challenges of helping returning inmates contribute to society.
- Through a collaboration with faith-based and community organizations and the Department of Labor (DOL), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Department of Justice (DOJ), the initiative would address three key requirements for successful re-entry of those who have paid their debt to society mentoring, transitional housing, and basic job training and placement. The President's FY 2005 budget will provide funding for the first year of this four-year, \$300 million initiative.

New Initiatives in President Bush's State of the Union Address

January 20, 2004

In his State of the Union Address, President Bush called on our Nation to complete the work begun during the last three years and to face the future with confidence and strength. To address America's most pressing needs, the President announced new initiatives to strengthen economic growth, further reform education and job training, address the rising cost of health care, and make America a more compassionate Nation.

Jobs for the 21st Century

- America's growing economy is also a changing economy, and President Bush wants to help Americans gain the skills needed to prosper in our new economy. President Bush announced *Jobs for the 21st Century* – more than \$500 million for a series of measures to better prepare current and future workers for jobs in the new millennium.
- President Bush wants to help current workers get the training and skills they need to secure jobs in high-growth industries. He also wants to help better prepare high school students to enter higher education or the workforce. This initiative is especially important at a time when 80% of the fastest-growing jobs in the U.S. require higher education and many require math and science skills.
 - The President's *Jobs for the 21st Century* initiative would expand support through America's community colleges to help them train workers for the industries that are creating the most new jobs. It includes a \$250 million proposal to fund partnerships between community colleges and employers in high-demand job sectors, based on successful pilot programs launched by President Bush in 2001 and 2002.
 - President Bush's plan will improve the quality of education at our Nation's middle and high schools and better prepare students for success in higher education and the job market – including \$100 million to help striving readers and \$120 million to improve math education.
 - The President's plan expands Advanced Placement programs in low-income schools and invites professionals with private-sector math and science experience to teach part-time in our high schools. As an incentive for students to take more demanding high school courses, it would provide larger grants for college under the Pell Grant program.

Making Health Care More Affordable

- The rapidly rising cost of health care is the main reason why millions of Americans lack health insurance today. To make insurance more affordable, the President proposed measures to address rising healthcare costs and help more Americans afford insurance.
- ***Tax-Free Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)***: As part of the Medicare prescription drug bill that President Bush signed into law last month, workers will now be able to take advantage of HSAs – fully portable, tax-free savings accounts that can be used to pay for medical expenses incurred by individuals, spouses, or dependents. Contributions to HSAs by individuals are deductible, even if the taxpayer does not itemize, and contributions by an employer are not included in the individual's taxable income.

- ***Tax-free Insurance Premiums for HSAs:*** President Bush proposed that individuals who buy catastrophic health care coverage as part of their new Health Savings Accounts, be allowed to deduct 100% of the premium from their taxes. This new deduction of health insurance premiums, which will be available to taxpayers whether or not they itemize, will make health coverage more affordable for millions of Americans who do not get coverage through their workplace.
- The President also called on Congress to establish refundable tax credits of up to \$1,000 for individuals and \$3,000 for families to help low-income workers buy health insurance coverage.
- The President called for Congress to pass Association Health Plans to enable small businesses to provide health coverage to more workers by allowing them to band together and negotiate lower insurance rates.
- President Bush proposed to double the budget to \$100 million for demonstration projects related to health information technology, which will save lives and help to reduce costs.

Doubling Our Efforts to Expand Democracy

- The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) was established by Congress during the Reagan Administration to expand democracy throughout the world. Governed by an independent, nonpartisan board of directors, the NED makes hundreds of grants each year to support pro-democracy groups in dozens of countries. The NED works in part through direct grants to NGOs and civil society groups fighting for democracy, human rights, religious tolerance, freedom of the press, and free elections. Last year, the NED budget totaled \$39.6 million. The President called for doubling the NED budget, allocating the additional \$40 million to programs in the Middle East.

Helping Young Americans Make Healthy Decisions

- ***Addressing the National Challenge of Teen Substance Abuse:*** Approximately 1.4 million American teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17 are in need of drug treatment, according to research done by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Data also show that, if a child does not start using drugs in his or her teen years, he or she is much less likely to develop a substance abuse problem later.
- In his State of the Union address, President Bush announced a new initiative to help young Americans avoid being ensnared by addiction. His budget for FY 2005 will include \$25 million—a \$23 million increase—for student drug testing program grants, extending the benefits of early intervention programs that have been proven in government, military, education, transportation, and private-sector workplaces. The President's anti-drug policies are working – just last month, a leading national survey found that 400,000 fewer drug users among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders. This represents an 11% decline in drug use among these age groups, ahead of the President's two-year goal of 10%.
- ***Encouraging Role Models to Set a Good Example for Young Athletes:*** President Bush called on America's major sports leagues and athletes to end the use of performance-enhancing drugs. Their use by even a minority of elite athletes sets a dangerous example for the millions of young Americans, encouraging young people to take dangerous risks with their health and safety.

- The President will ask these leagues and athletes to implement stringent drug policies to set a healthier and more positive example for America's young people. These policies will also protect the integrity of their sports and ensure the health and well-being of athletes.
- ***Expanding Support for Teen Abstinence Promotion:*** Each year, three million American teenagers contract sexually transmitted diseases, causing emotional harm and serious health consequences, even death. President Bush announced a new initiative to educate teens and parents about the health risks associated with early sexual activity and provide the tools needed to help teens make responsible choices. The President's Fiscal Year 2005 budget would increase the funding for abstinence education programs to more than \$270 million. President Bush also directed the Department of Health and Human Services to develop research-based standards for model abstinence education curricula, and he called for a review of all Federal programming for youth addressing teen pregnancy prevention, family planning, and STD and HIV/AIDS prevention to ensure that the Federal government is sending the right messages to teens. He also announced a public education campaign designed to help parents communicate with their children about the health risks associated with early sexual activity.

Empowering Faith-Based and Community Charities to Help Those in Need

- Many faith-based organizations that have been effective in serving the poor have faced discrimination in their efforts to partner with the Federal government. The regulatory reforms instituted by President Bush in December, 2002 have remedied many of these problems, but should be protected by statute.
- President Bush announced his intent to seek legislation to put into law the principle of equal treatment for faith-based organizations in the Federal grants process and end discrimination against these charities. This legislation would ensure that more Americans in need would be able to get vital social services from the country's most effective charities, whether secular or faith-based organizations.

Protecting Communities by Reducing Recidivism Among Returning Inmates

- Some 600,000 prisoners who have completed their prison sentences will be released this year. Unfortunately, many of them will return to prison after committing another crime – causing additional costs to themselves and society. To reduce the number of these prisoners committing new crimes, President Bush proposed a plan to harness the resources and experience of faith-based and community organizations in dealing with the challenges of helping returning inmates contribute to society.
- Through a collaboration with faith-based and community organizations and the Department of Labor (DOL), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Department of Justice (DOJ), the initiative would address three key requirements for successful re-entry of those who have paid their debt to society – mentoring, transitional housing, and basic job training and placement. The President's FY 2005 budget will provide funding for the first year of this four-year, \$300 million initiative.