



Presidents Helping
CHILDREN



EVERY CHILD *matters*
education fund
2012



February 2012

Dear Reader,

Electing a president every four years is perhaps the top political highlight of our great democracy. And irrespective of our political differences, we all want our presidents to succeed and to help fulfill the great American promise of fair treatment and equal opportunity for all. For decades America's presidents have done just that, and in the process they frequently have lifted the well-being of millions of children.

All presidents enter the White House confronted by immense domestic and international challenges, but the economic and budget challenges facing our next president and the 113th Congress will be unusually daunting. However, as the grim numbers that follow show, this is not the time to postpone critical new investments in America's children.

The development of human capital is central to U.S. global competitiveness, our ability to care for an aging population, and the moral obligation of each generation to leave the world a better place for the one that follows.

We all agree that families are the best place for children—but often families need a little help. The private sector is an essential ally, and state and local governments are critical players. But vast disparities in child well-being among states require our national government to promote equal opportunities for all children.

Fortunately, as this exhibition shows, Americans historically have supported presidents who push to make homeland security a reality for all children and families. It will be up to our next president to continue this never-ending tradition.

Michael R. Petit, President
Every Child Matters
Washington, D.C.



A REALITY FOR MILLIONS OF CHILDREN...

- Over **7** million children without health insurance
- Nearly **3** million children reported abused and neglected each year
- NEARLY **2** MILLION CHILDREN WITH A PARENT IN PRISON
- Nearly **16** million children in poverty
- As many as **15** million without adequate supervision after school while parents work
- **5** MILLION 3- TO 5-YEAR-OLDS UNABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS

THEODORE Roosevelt

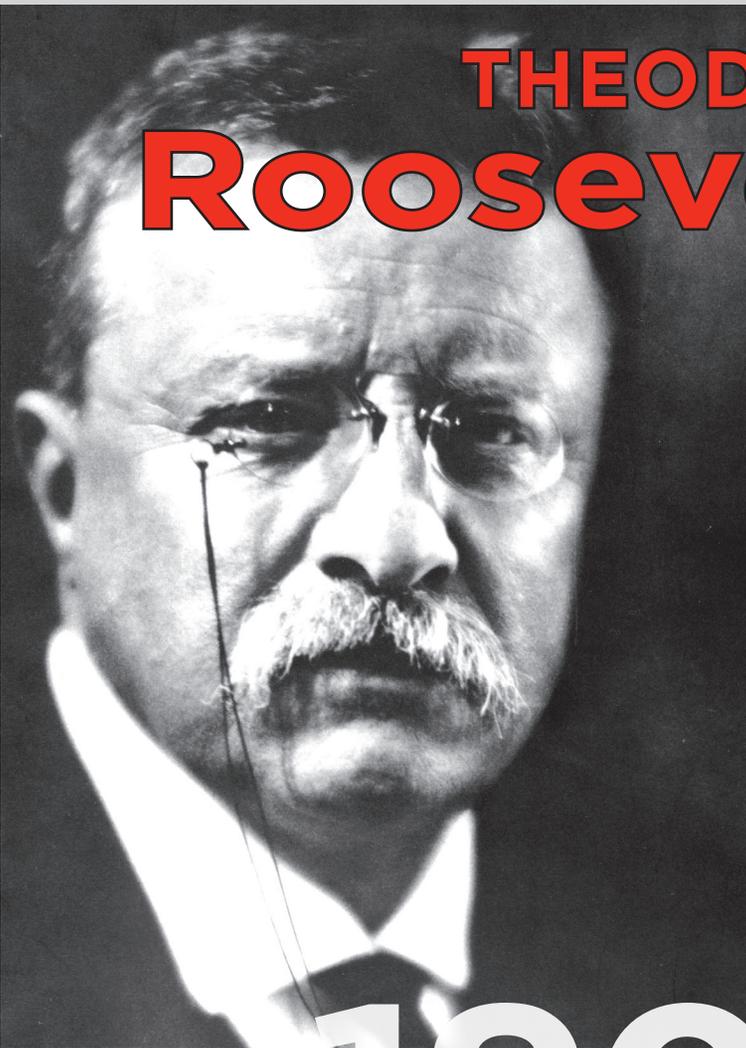


Photo courtesy of Theodore Roosevelt Collection, Harvard College Library

1909 1st White House Conference on Children

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, many children of poor families were unnecessarily separated from their parents and sent to orphanages for care. This separation of families led to President Teddy

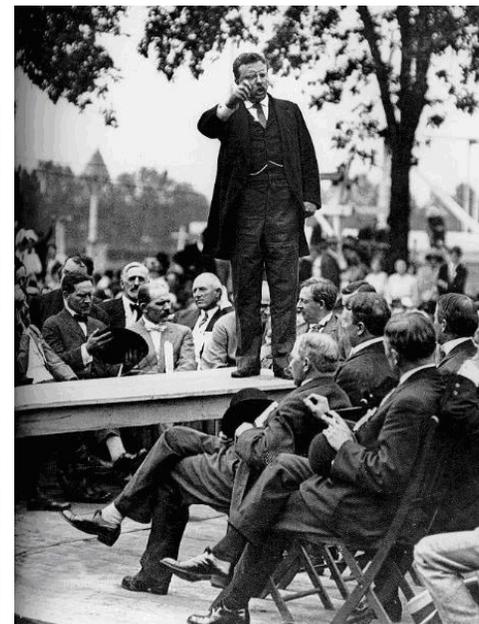
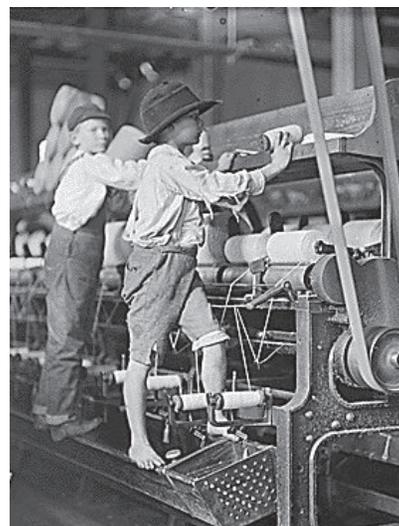
The first White House Conference led to programs like the Frontier Nursing Service, established in 1925, which allowed nurses to visit pregnant women and sick children in remote areas.



Roosevelt holding the first White House Conference on the Care of Dependent Women and Children. The last national White House Conference on Children was in 1970.

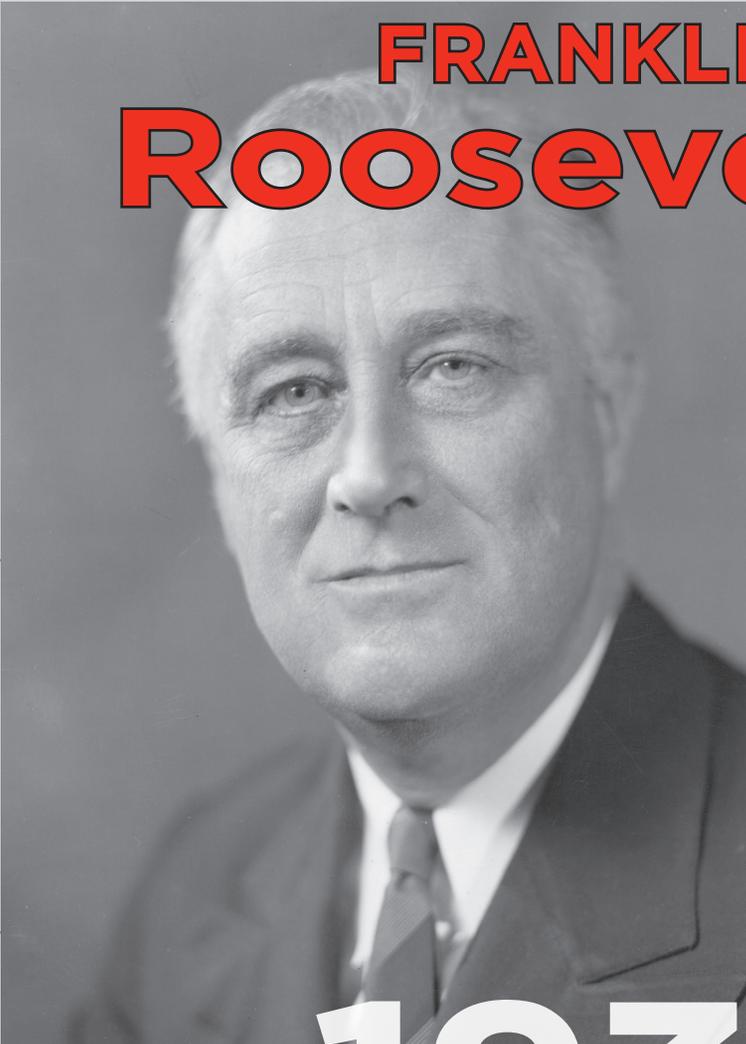
The Conference brought together 200 leading child welfare advocates to discuss new programs to keep families unified regardless of income. In response to the recommendations of the Conference, the U.S. Children's Bureau was established by

Congress in 1912 to "investigate and report...upon all matters pertaining to the welfare of children and child life among all classes of our people." The Conference marked the beginning of a more active federal role in addressing the needs of children, youth, and families. Measures of child well-being improved steadily in the decades that followed.



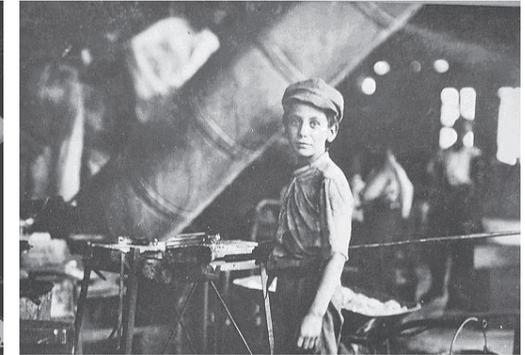
FRANKLIN D. Roosevelt

Photo courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum



1938 Ends Child Labor

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938 after research showed that children as young as five were working in dangerous conditions. The Act vastly improved working conditions for youth through requirements to pay higher wages, set age limits,



and prevent children working in dangerous environments. Still, today, there are tens of thousands of children working in unsafe conditions.

Following the Act, children were in safer environments, were paid fairer wages, and many more were able to attend school more consistently.

President Roosevelt was perhaps the nation's greatest champion for social and health programs aimed at families. His 1935 Social Security Act included grants to the states for

maternity, infant, and child care. Funds to the states also provided services to "crippled" children, including medical, dental, social, and nutritional services.

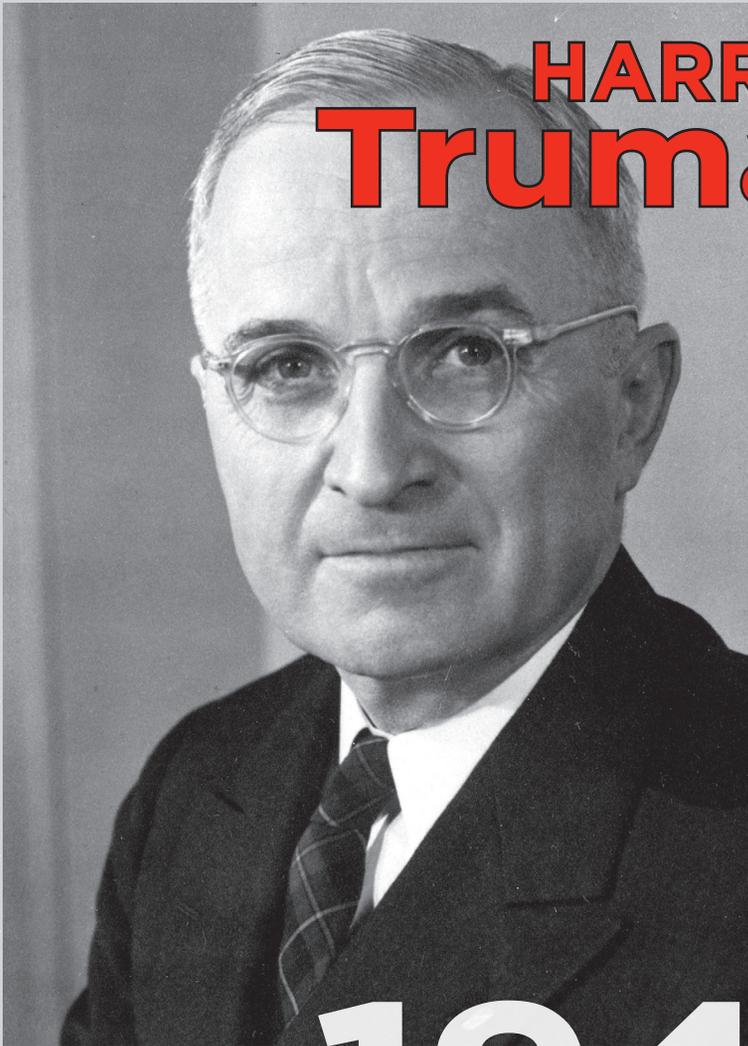
President Roosevelt also succeeded in creating income security programs for children, including the first food stamps program of the Social Security Act.



Public health nurses visit a classroom to distribute medicine to school children. Title V is the longest-standing public health legislation in American history and continues to work to improve the health of women and children.

HARRY S. Truman

Photo courtesy of Harry S. Truman Library and Museum



1946

School Lunch Program

The National School Lunch Program Act was signed by President Harry Truman in 1946. Congress created the NSLP after an investigation into the health of young men rejected in the World War II draft showed a connection between physical

7.1 million children received hot lunches in the program's first year, 1946-7. Since the modern program began, more than 170 billion lunches have been served.



deficiencies and childhood malnutrition. As of 2010, 16.2 million children are still faced with inadequate diet and nutrition every year.

Congress enacted the program as a "measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well-being

of the Nation's children." In signing the Act, President Truman said, "Nothing is more important in our national life than the welfare of our children, and proper nourishment comes first in attaining this welfare."

President Harry S. Truman signs legislation to enact The National School Lunch Program Act, 1946.



LYNDON B. Johnson

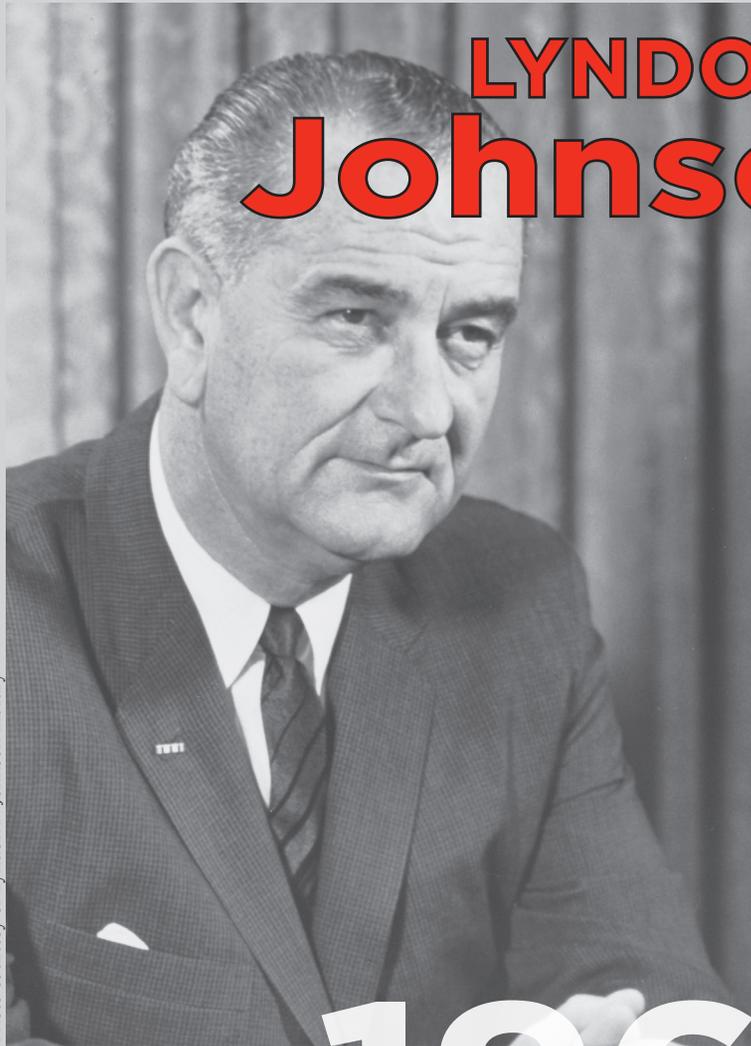


Photo courtesy of Lyndon B. Johnson Library

Head Start 1965

In May of 1965, President Lyndon Johnson announced Project Head Start. The program provides pre-school learning, medical and dental care, and mental health services. Head Start was part of Johnson's War on Poverty, which embodied a basic belief that education was the solution to

President Johnson announces Head Start in May 1965. Head Start served over 560,000 children across the U.S. in the summer of 1967 and 27 million since.



poverty. Today, only 50% of the eligible 3- and 4-year-olds are enrolled in Head Start and less than 5% of eligible infants and toddlers are enrolled in Early Head Start due to lack of funding.

Teachers, service providers, child development specialists, parents, and communities enthusiastically received Head Start. Participation in Head Start

has resulted in higher IQ scores, lower rates of crime, and higher high school graduation rates.

Johnson was also the architect of many other national health and social programs, including Medicaid, which provided health care to over 26 million children in 2010.



Fort Belknap, Montana, 1978. Bow Horn Weasel gets help from his father, Rick Weasel, as he is readied for the tribal dances at Head Start's minipowwow.

RICHARD M. Nixon

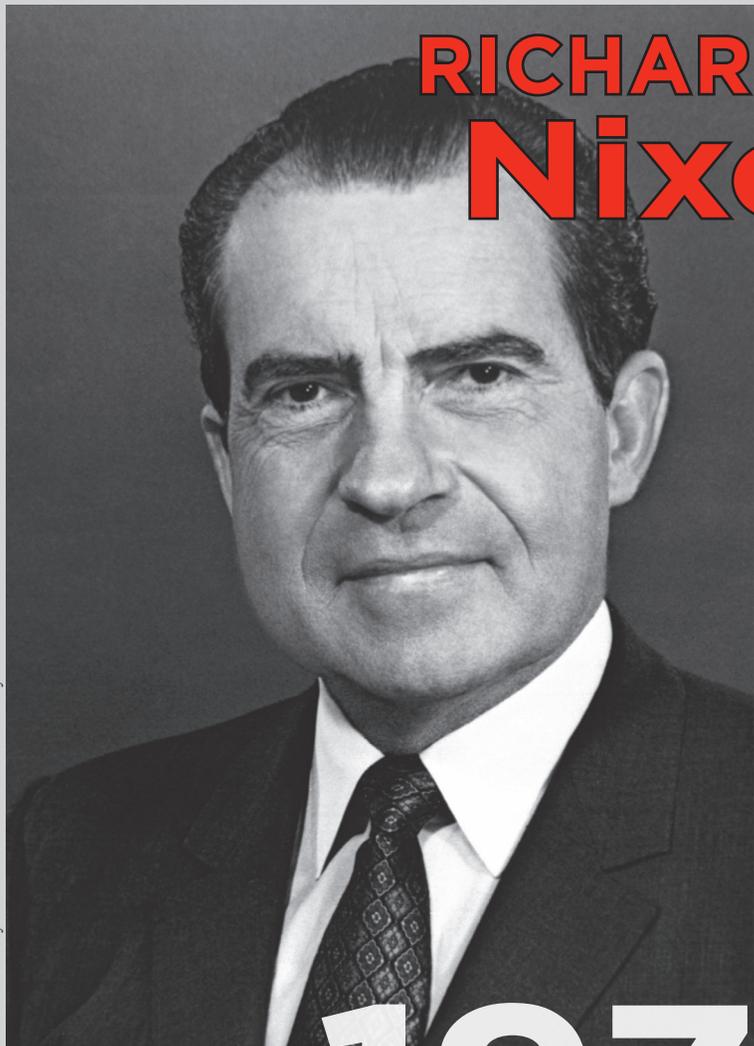


Photo courtesy of Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

1972

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Following research showing that many pregnant and lactating mothers and their infants and young children were malnourished, President

Currently WIC serves 53% of all infants born in the U.S. In 2010, 9.17 million people were served, 4.86 million were children.



Richard Nixon signed legislation enacting the Women, Infant and Children program. The program provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and referrals to free health and social services to pregnant, postpartum and lactating women and their infants and children up to age five.

in their first trimester.

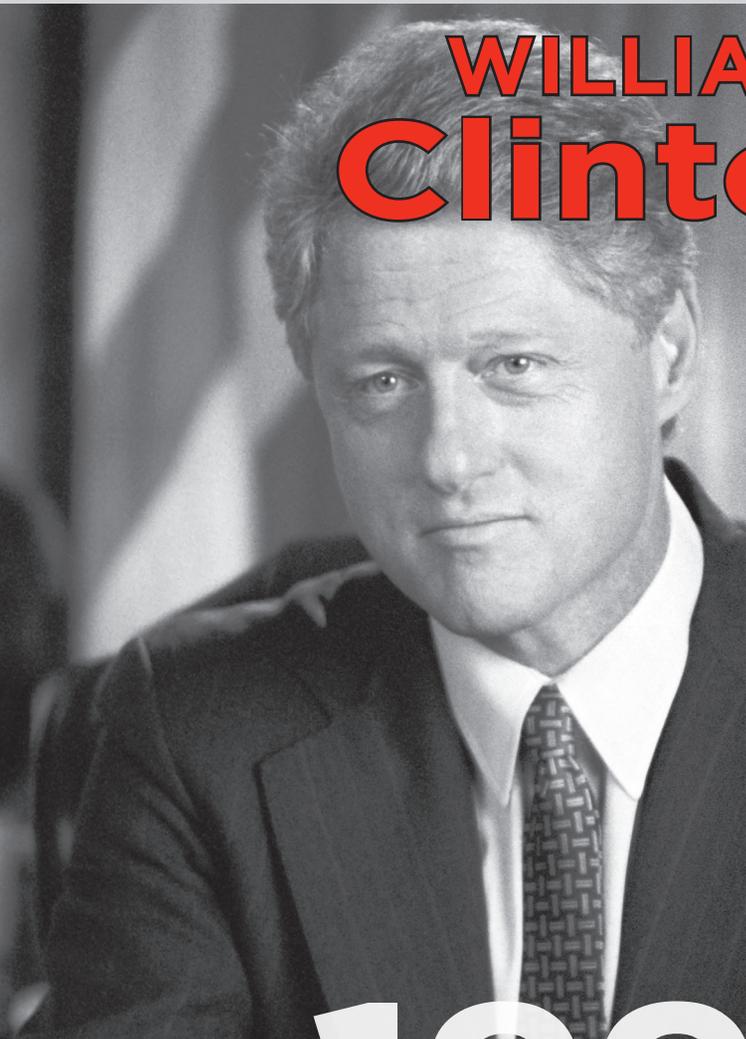
Children are the main recipients of WIC. Currently WIC serves 53% of all infants born in the U.S. In 2010, 9.17 million people were served, 4.86 million were children.

Still, the U.S. is the only industrialized country without guaranteed prenatal care for pregnant women; consequently, some tens of thousands of women receive late or no prenatal care



WILLIAM J. Clinton

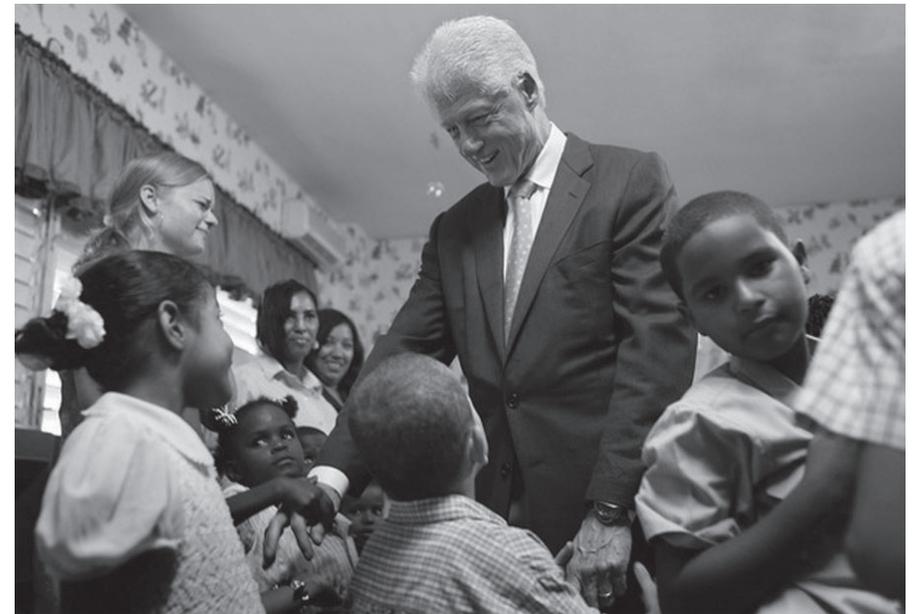
Photo courtesy of William J. Clinton Presidential Library



1997 Children's Health Insurance

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) was created to help states provide coverage to uninsured children whose parents' incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid.

Today, SCHIP covers more than 6.6 million children. Together SCHIP and Medicaid cover more than one-quarter of all children and more than half of low-income children.



Children without health insurance are five times as likely to delay medical care and go without medicines as children with health insurance and be afflicted with otherwise avoidable health problems.

Because of SCHIP, the number of uninsured children in the U.S. has decreased by one-third. SCHIP covered 7.7 million children in 2010. Still, there are some 7 million children in the U.S. without health insurance.

In addition to sponsoring SCHIP, President Clinton doubled the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Originally enacted by President Ford and expanded by Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush, the refundable tax credit supplements the earnings of low-and-moderate income workers. In 2009, the EITC lifted over 6 million people out of poverty. More than 3 million of them were children.

“Each child represents either a potential addition to the productive capacity and enlightened citizenship of the nation or, if allowed to suffer from neglect, a potential addition to the destructive forces of a community... the interests of the nation are involved in the welfare of this army of children no less than in our great material affairs.”

*President Theodore Roosevelt
1909*

1023 15th St. NW
Suite 401
Washington, DC 20005
202.223.8177

TWITTER: @VotingForKids
FACEBOOK: Every Child Matters

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