



MEMORANDUM

RELEASE IN FULL

Memorandum

To: Cheryl Mills, Maggie Williams
 From: Ann Leary
 Subject: Thoughts on National Commission Membership

Thank you both again for your great guidance on our proposed National Commission on Children. With the first \$1 million in the door (a donation from Laurene Powell Jobs) we are well on the way to raising \$2 million by the end of February and are eager to determine the membership of the Commission and our action plan for the next two years.

In addition, I'm ready to get going as there are a number of exciting potential supporters now calling for a National Commission on Children. Over the last several days, Mark Shriver, Irwin Redliner, and others from the children's advocacy community have been calling on President Obama to include a call for a National Commission on Children in his State of the Union address. I don't know whether the President will announce it (and I certainly don't think Congress would appropriate money for it), but I do think it would be helpful to have strong public buy-in for our effort from the President. I'd like to be sure to coordinate with you before anything moves forward at the White House.

Finally, on the fundraising front, there are a group of private philanthropists who have been pulled together by Lucile Packard Children's Hospital who are prepared to support a national effort to set an agenda for children and so there is real potential that they may want to back our effort financially and otherwise.

With all of this work coming together, I wanted to update you on our timing and on my thinking regarding the Commission's leadership and membership. I also wanted to check in with you on your thinking to see if a National Commission on Children is something that the Secretary is still actively considering and what we might be able to do to provide additional information she needs to make her decision.

Leadership and Membership

As Maggie and I discussed, this Commission will be different from the typical national commission. Most national commissions focus exclusively on the role government should play in improving a problem. Alternatively, this National Commission will be tasked with making recommendations on improving child well-being in the United States based on a framework of shared responsibility between the public (federal, state, and local government), private (business and industry), and personal (individual and community) sectors of society. This Commission will start from the premise that government cannot, and should not, be the sole

National Commission on Children

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party responsible for reducing child poverty, improving child health and well-being, and ensuring that all of our children have the opportunity to compete for jobs in the global marketplace.

To that end, I have been thinking about a leadership team that would represent the public, private, and personal sectors. A draft list is attached below. I have not reached out to anyone on this list, but first wanted to give the Secretary the opportunity to weigh in on her potential co-commissioners and co-chairs of the Commission.

Timing

Ultimately, we would like to hold off announcing a National Commission on Children until March or April of this year and then plan to hold the first commission meeting by September 2013. On March 5, 2013, we are co-hosting a Children and Families Summit with *Washington Post Live*. We would like to announce either at the summit, or as an immediate follow-up to the summit, the formation of a National Commission on Children and announce the co-chairs of the commission. But, if this timing is too soon for your team, we can wait until April when the 30th anniversary of *A Nation at Risk* would give us a good hook to announce the Commission.

Next Steps

It would be helpful to schedule a call with one or both of you to determine your team's level of interest and how to proceed if you are. I appreciate the opportunity to present our work with you both and have my fingers crossed that we can work together soon.

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NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN

Potential Commission Members for Public, Private, and Personal Action

PROPOSED CO-CHAIRS:

- ∞ Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton;
- ∞ Randall Stephenson, CEO of AT&T; &
- ∞ Eduardo Padrón, President of Miami Dade College

Ideas for Public Sector Commission Members:

- ∞ Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton (proposed co-Chair)

- ∞ Secretary Condoleezza Rice (Together with Joel Klein, Secretary Rice recently co-chaired a Council on Foreign Relations Task Force, "U.S. Education Reform and National Security" and used her RNC speech to highlight the importance of education and social mobility.), or
 - o or Senator Olympia Snowe

- ∞ Mayor Julian Castro, San Antonio (Won a recent ballot initiative increasing sales tax for preschool education initiative.), or
 - o or Governor John Hickenlooper (Has spearheaded innovative work trying to integrate social services to improve outcomes for children.)

- ∞ Governor Sam Brownback, Kansas (A major focus of his term included reducing child poverty, increasing 4th grade reading, and increasing high school graduates who are career or college ready.), or
 - o or Michael Bloomberg (Has focused on combating obesity and reforming education.)

Ideas for Private Sector Commission Members:

- ∞ Randall Stephenson, CEO, AT&T (Republican) (proposed co-Chair) (Started the AT&T Aspire initiative and sits on the National Executive Board of Boy Scouts of America.)

- ∞ Mike Duke, CEO of WalMart (Republican)

- ∞ Ursula Burns, CEO of Xerox (Democrat) (15 years running top companies to work from Working Mother magazine.), or
 - o Sheryl Sandberg, COO, Facebook (Outspoken business leader on work-family issues.)

- ∞ Jim Sinegal, Founder of Costco (Democrat) (Has provided a strong commitment to workers.), or
 - o Howard Schultz, Starbucks

- ∞ Biz Stone, Co-Founder of Twitter (Leader in thinking about how social media can change private/public behavior.)

Ideas for Personal/Community Leaders Commission Members :

- ∞ Eduardo Padrón (proposed co-Chair) President of Miami Dade College
- ∞ Maurice Lim Miller, winner of MacArthur Genius Award, Founder of Family Independence Initiative
- ∞ Marian Wright Edelman, Founder and President of The Children’s Defense Fund, or
 - o Geoffrey Canada, CEO of Harlem Children’s Zone
- ∞ Ron Haskins or Brad Wilcox □ Researchers and leaders on promoting marriage
 - Kimberly Oliver Burnim, National Teacher of the Year, 2006
- ∞ Jim Steyer, Founder and CEO of Common Sense Media
- ∞ Laurene Powell Jobs, Founder of the Emerson Collective (Working on supporting the “Dreamers” and passing the Dream Act.)