

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 9, 1995

Dear Mr. Leader:

A few weeks ago, in a meeting with governors from both parties, I announced that the White House would convene a bipartisan working session on welfare reform with governors, members of Congress, local and county officials and state legislators to begin an open dialogue about our country's broken welfare system and what we must do to fix it. I would like to invite you to take part in this session, which will take place Saturday, January 28, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Blair House.

Welfare reform is a top priority for my Administration, for state and local officials, for the new Congress, and above all, for the American people. I hope we can use this working session to put aside politics as usual and begin earnest work to solve one of our nation's most pressing problems.

The current welfare system is a bad deal for the taxpayers who pay the bills and for the families who are trapped in it. The American people deserve a government that honors their values and spends their money judiciously, and a country that rewards people who work hard and play by the rules.

I have asked my staff to work closely with you over the next two weeks to develop a common agenda for the working session. I believe from my own experience in working closely with President Reagan and Senator Moynihan on the Family Support Act that we can achieve bipartisan consensus for strengthening families and moving people from welfare to work. This session can be an important first step.

People want their leaders to stop the partisan bickering, come together, roll up their sleeves and get to work. I hope you will join in making this meeting the beginning of a new day not just for the welfare system, but for the way our government works.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Robert Dole
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510