

## Hillary Clinton Video

HILLARY CLINTON: Thank you all so much for the opportunity to speak with you about issues that are so close to my heart. The challenges facing parents in our country. You know, I've experienced those challenges along with so much joy as a parent, and I've worked to support parents for 35 years – as an advocate for children in families, as First Lady, and as a Senator. I remember when Chelsea was born, Bill was Governor of Arkansas at the time. The doctors recommended that I bring along a small bag of ice to chew when I was in labor. So I slowly, carefully walked to the car after my water broke on the way to the hospital, and what did I see as I approached? Oh, my goodness, my husband had asked a state trooper to load a 39-gallon garbage bag full of ice into the trunk.

Well, we got that straightened out, but the fact is from the moment our children are born as parents and supporters of parents, we don't just want to be prepared – we want to be overprepared. When it comes to their education, that commitment begins long before a child ever steps foot in a kindergarten classroom. Studies have shown that children age 2-4 who participate in high quality intensive preschool are less likely to repeat a grade, more likely to graduate from high school. This early investment in their education benefits them and us throughout their lives. That's why I support universal pre-kindergarten.

As President I'll create a national initiative to provide funding to states to establish high quality pre-school programs to all children, and no cost programs for children from low-income homes. My commitment doesn't stop there. I will also fully fund our national education programs and work to make sure every school has access to high quality teachers. As Senator, I created a national teacher recruitment campaign to help high need schools attract effective teachers and make sure every child receives the individualized attention he or she needs.

And, you know, our responsibility shouldn't stop when the school day ends. After school programs are important, too. Which is why I've worked to increase funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers to provide quality after school opportunities. Every child, in my opinion, deserves a quality education and quality healthcare. As First Lady, I helped to pass the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which provides healthcare for 6 million children. And as Senator, I fought to expand this program and proposed a plan to offer coverage for every child in our country, no exceptions.

Parents deserve our support as they do the most difficult job of all – raising the next generation. I want to expand and strengthen the Family Medical Leave Act signed into law by my husband, to reach 13 million more people. I want to help states provide paid family leave for new parents. I've said every worker should have seven paid sick days to take care of themselves or their families. But there are so many challenges. The growing number of diagnoses of diseases like autism and asthma, the needs of parents struggling to balance work and family and certainly trying hard to find quality childcare; the risks of exposure to pollutants in the air and serious questions about the safety of toys that we provide. The truth is every challenge starts with this: How do we build a nation that truly values our families and nurtures the next generation?

As parents we're ready for change. I think we're ready for leadership that will reclaim the future for our children. And I am ready to lead. I thank you all for joining together to give voice to the concerns of parents. On behalf of our children who often can't be heard themselves, we are their voices and there isn't a more important job for our country to do. I once said and wrote a book entitled *It Takes A Village to Raise a Child*. Well, it takes a nation to support our families and all those villages that are important to providing the education and the healthcare, the opportunities that every child deserves to have, to live up to his or her God-given potential. Thank you very much.

[APPLAUSE]

BRIAN WALKER: So if I'm correct, lunch is in the back. And if we can do this – I don't want to rush people, but at the same time, if we can get through in an orderly fashion and get back. We're going to try to get going with Dr. Karp in about 12 minutes – 15 minutes? But you can be eating while he's presenting. I don't want you to eat during that time. That would be the time to get your plate and come on back, okay? That gives everybody four seconds to...

[LUNCH. MUSIC.]

[END OF TAPE]