Yet the majority of parents whose children took their own lives say they did not recognize their children’s depression until it was too late.

The tragedy at Columbine High School, as Hillary said, was for all of us a wake up call. We simply can’t afford to wait until tragedy strikes to reach out to troubled young people. Today I’m pleased to announce a new national school safety training program for teachers, schools, and communities to help us identify troubled children and provide them better school mental health services.

This new program is the result of a remarkable partnership by the National Education Association, EchoStar, and members of the Learning First Alliance, joined by the Departments of Education, Justice, and Health and Human Services. This fall the Vice President and Tipper will kick off the first training session, which will be transmitted via satellite to more than 1,000 communities around our Nation.

We’re all very grateful to EchoStar, a satellite company based in Littleton, Colorado, and its partner, Future View, for helping make this possible by donating satellite dishes to 1,000 school districts, and 40 hours of free time. I want to ask businesses and broadcasters all around our country to follow EchoStar’s lead and donate their time, expertise, and equipment to help ensure that every school district in America can participate in this important training program.

Now I want to introduce two of the people who are showing this kind of leadership: the president of the NEA, Bob Chase; and Bill Vanderpoel, the vice president of EchoStar. I’d like to ask them to come up to talk a little bit about what they’re going to do. Let’s give them a big hand. [Applause]

[At this point, Robert F. Chase, president, National Education Association, and William Vanderpoel, vice president for business development, EchoStar Communications Corp., made brief remarks.]

The President. Thank you both very much. Now, I’d like to ask Tipper to come up one more time so we can all tell her how grateful we are, and let me say this. You probably saw a little bit by the way she positioned Al on time and she positioned Hillary on time—I think I’m going to start calling her “Sarge” behind her back. [Laughter] She has driven us all. We’ve been on time; we’ve been at the place we were supposed to be; we say what we were supposed to say; we finished on time. So she not only has great sensitivity; she has phenomenal organizing ability, and we’re very grateful for her. Thank you. [Applause]

Now, I’d like to ask Hillary and the Vice President to come over, too. [Applause] Thank you all very much. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 2 p.m. in the Blackburn Auditorium at Howard University. In his remarks, he referred to the following conference participants: Mike Wallace, co-editor of the CBS news program “60 Minutes” and a clinical depression sufferer; schizophrenia sufferer John Wong; anorexia nervosa sufferer Jennifer Gates; Robin Kitchell, whose son suffers from bipolar disorder, attention deficit disorder, and learning disabilities; Dr. Wayne Burton, M.D., first vice president/corporate medical director, Bank One Corp.; Dr. Steven E. Hyman, M.D., Director, National Institute of Mental Health; and Dr. Harold S. Koplewicz, M.D., founder and director, New York University Child Study Center. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Tipper Gore, Vice President Al Gore, Dr. Burton, the First Lady, Dr. Hyman, and Dr. Koplewicz. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Dinner for Terence McAuliffe
June 7, 1999

Thank you very much. I want to thank Ron and Beth for having us here; and Chairman Andrew, Mayor Archer, the other officials of the Democratic Party who are here. I want to thank all those who have spoken before; but I have to say a word about the two women.
Ann Richards is my former colleague and my longtime friend who tells me jokes that make me laugh, but which she knows good and well I can never repeat. [Laughter] So tonight she referred to me as “her lovely husband, Bill.” And then Hillary said my being a member of the Senate spouses club was a good reason to run. [Laughter] No offense, Senator Daschle, but until you change the numbers up there, if I were given the choice, I’d rather be in the spouses club. [Laughter] I’m looking forward to it.

However, I’ve also made it clear that I’m available for any and all other services. I would be happy to run the New York City casework operation—there will never be a difficult reelection if they let me do that; it’ll be over. [Laughter]

Let me say, I want you to all ask yourselves something. What is it that you like about Terry McAuliffe? I like the fact that he lies to me about his golf handicap, and I can’t get mad at him. I like the fact that for a rich guy, his politics go a little left and his golf ball goes a little right. I like the fact that he did wrestle an alligator, and if you offered to give the Democratic Party enough money, he’d lay down on the bottom of that swimming pool for 3 to 4 minutes, until you finally came across. [Laughter]

I like the fact that he is always seeing the bright side of things. After we were totally wiped out in ’94—I mean, it was awful; there was nothing good about the ’94 election—I called McAuliffe. He said, “Hey, look at it this way. It’s a great opportunity for next time; we could have lost 60 seats!” [Laughter] And he went back to work. It never occurred to him to do anything else.

I like the fact that the more successful he’s become, financially and otherwise, the more intense his devotion to our party and to people who are less fortunate than he is has become. I like the fact that he loves his family; he wants it to get bigger; he is unabashedly proud of them all, from his parents to his wife and children to his brother and others. I like the fact that he is proud of what he has done as a citizen to help make our party successful.

Terry and I have never been of the school that believed that we ought to act embarrassed because we ask people in the system we have to contribute so that we could get our message across. Because of what he has done and because of what we have done, all of you together, there are 18 million more jobs in this country; 12.5 million people have taken advantage of the family leave law; millions and millions of more people are in their own homes. We have a 25 year low in the crime rate, half as many people on welfare. I think it’s worth an investment in America; so does he. We’re proud of you. And I like that about Terry McAuliffe.

I like the fact that Terry gets up every day, like we all should—anybody who can be in this room tonight—and know that whatever the problems are out there, whatever difficulties he’s had—and he and Dorothy, even though they live totally charmed, their life has not been totally free of bumps in the road—he gets up every day and thinks, “I am a lucky man; I am alive; I’ve got a wonderful family; I’m making more money than I ever dreamed, and I get to go out and help people I believe in make this a better country and a better world.”

And if we all had more of his energy, his positive attitude, his belief in himself and in the fundamental goodness of people, that you bring it out and unleash that energy, this would even be a greater country, and we would have even fewer problems than we have, and we’d be making even more progress than we are.

I love this guy. I want you to understand, I had all these funny jokes, and I threw them away before I got in here because I want to tell you this. I want you to remember this. We’ve been through a lot of things together. We’ve walked over coals; we’ve had coals dumped on our heads; we’ve dodged a lot of bullets; we’ve taken a few. And every day, he just gets up and thanks God he’s alive, looks on the bright side of things, doesn’t quit believing in what he believes in, and always believes there’s somebody else to help, somebody else to bring in, someone else to involve.

And again, I say to you, I think that’s why we’re all here. We like him. There are even some people here who don’t share his politics, or mine, who are here because they like him. And so when you go home tonight and you get up tomorrow, just think—you can have a little of his energy, a little more of his positive outlook, a little more of his basic faith that we can bring out the goodness in people, we can even do more for the party and the country we love.

Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. McAuliffe. Thank you very much.
NOTE: The President spoke at 10:05 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to Beth Dozoretz, national finance chair, Joseph J. Andrew, national chair, and Mayor Dennis W. Archer of Detroit, general cochair, Democratic National Committee; former Gov. Ann Richards of Texas; and Mr. McAuliffe’s wife, Dorothy. The President also referred to Mrs. Dozoretz’s husband, Ronald, who cohosted the dinner with his wife.

Remarks at the Welcoming Ceremony for President Arpad Goncz of Hungary
June 8, 1999

President and Mrs. Goncz; ladies and gentlemen: In the early 1850’s, the great Hungarian patriot Lajos Kossuth came to this country and to this house to seek support for restoring liberty to his nation. He said then, “To find the sunlight of freedom, we must come to America.” Kossuth would be proud today that his statement no longer holds, that the sunlight of freedom shines in Hungary and all across the world.

In the past year, I have had the privilege to welcome to the White House extraordinary leaders who risked their lives in the struggle for liberty, were imprisoned for their beliefs and activism, and now have emerged in freedom’s sunlight as the Presidents of their nations: Kim Dae-jung of South Korea, Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, Nelson Mandela of South Africa. Today, with freedom at last shining brightly in Hungary, I have the great honor and pleasure to welcome President Arpad Goncz, our friend, our partner, our ally.

Let me begin with a few words about our common enterprise in Kosovo. For 77 days we have been working to achieve a simple set of objectives there: the return of refugees with safety and self-government; the withdrawal of all Serbian forces; the deployment of an international security force with NATO at its core. Last Thursday Serb authorities accepted a peace plan that embodies those conditions. Today in Bonn we took another important step forward. The G-8 countries now have agreed to language of a United Nations Security Council resolution that will help us to realize these basic goals, peace with security for the people of Kosovo and stability for the region as a whole.

The key now, as it has been from the beginning of this process, is implementation. A verifiable withdrawal of Serb forces will allow us to suspend the bombing and go forward with the plan. NATO is determined to bring the Kosovars home, to do so as an alliance acting together, and in a way that ultimately can strengthen the relationship between Russia and the West.

Our great writer E.L. Doctorow once said, “The devastating history of 20th century Europe, which you and I might study in a book or look at as tourists, is housed in the being of Arpad Goncz.” In World War II he fought in resistance and was wounded by Nazi fire. In 1956 he rose with fellow citizens against Stalinist oppression. And after Soviet tanks crushed the uprising, he was sentenced to life in prison.

Released after 6 years, he became a translator, bringing Western ideals to Hungary, and through his own plays and stories challenged Hungarians to think about the nature of tyranny and the meaning of freedom. After NATO’s resolve and the courage of central Europeans helped to bring down the Iron Curtain, the Hungarian people chose this great man to lead them.

Now, Hungary is one of the fastest growing economies in Europe, with America its largest foreign investor. Hungary has acted to protect the rights of its own minority groups and worked for the rights of ethnic Hungarians in other nations. Hungary has stood with the United States as a NATO Ally against ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and for a more positive future for all the peoples of central and Eastern Europe. Hungary is leading the way toward what people dreamed of throughout the long cold war.

I am very proud of the alliance between our countries, the friendship between our people. I am grateful for the contributions of Hungarian-Americans to the fabric of our present greatness and good fortune. And I am very honored to welcome here the President of Hungary.