Family Research Council®

Gary L. Bauer, President

February 14, 1997

Dear Friend:

This month my regular letter comes to you alongside our newsletter, *Washington Watch*. Let me begin with a word of thanks. Every year Family Research Council depends heavily on the donations we receive at Christmas-time. Because of your generosity this past year, FRC begins 1997 in a strong position. We are now able to launch several new projects designed to strengthen families. God bless you for your faithfulness.

This month, I want you to be aware of the turning point this nation is reaching in the war against drug abuse. Consider just a snapshot of the alarming trends:

* The *Monitoring the Future* study, the federal government's annual adolescent drug study, was released just before Christmas. It found that nearly one in four *eighth-graders* has tried marijuana at least once in his lifetime, and more than one in 10 is a *current user*. One in 20 high school seniors is a *daily* pot smoker.

* Last August, the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse reported that an estimated 12.8 million Americans now abuse illegal drugs. Since 1992, drug use by teenagers has risen a staggering 105 percent. The survey found that *70 percent* of teenagers say they can buy marijuana any day of the week.

* Abuse of hard drugs among adolescents is soaring at especially alarming rates. The number of young people reporting cocaine use rose 166 percent between 1994 and 1995. Overall use of LSD rose 55 percent during the same time period.

To get our country back on track, I believe we must once again recognize a fundamental proposition: The war against drugs is winnable. All of us must work together to stop drugs from entering our country, to condemn drug use, to punish offenders, and to rehabilitate those whom society can reach with a message of recovery and redemption.

With this letter, I am announcing a series of steps FRC is taking to ensure that parents and policymakers have the tools they need to carry on the fight against the drug abuse. Among the new resources we are making available: