

in children. Information is especially sparse for children under 2, the time when the medication may be most needed.

Without clear guidance, pediatricians sometimes decide not to prescribe for children drugs used successfully by adults, and this means that the children may well be being deprived of what may be the very best treatment available. And as the Vice President said, the pediatrician's other alternative is to guess, with potentially grave consequences. Some time ago, for example, doctors gave infants small doses of a crucial antibiotic commonly used by adults, but it turned out that the infants were unable to clear the drug from their bodies and large amounts built up in their livers, and because of needed dosage studies which had not been done, 23 infants died.

The rule I announce today will put an end to this guesswork. It will require manufacturers of all medicines needed by children to study the drugs' effects on children. The results will then be displayed on drug labels to help pediatricians and other health care professionals make good decisions about how to treat their young patients. Groups representing patients, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and drug manufacturers all have indicated their willingness to help us implement this new rule, and we appreciate their willingness to do so.

I also want to applaud Senators Dodd and DeWine and Congressman Greenwood and Congressman Waxman, all of whom have introduced legislation that would provide additional incentives for drug manufacturers to perform the needed dosage studies in children. Their approach is compatible with the rule we're announcing today, and I look forward to working with them on this issue as Congress continues our bipartisan efforts to pass comprehensive FDA reform this fall.

And I know Congressman Greenwood and his children are here; I'd like to ask him to stand. Thank you, sir, for being here. We appreciate your work. In your new position in the Congress, you may have many more controversial issues to deal with but few that will do more good. And we thank you for your leadership.

Today we take one more significant step toward assuring quality health care for our children, building on our historic commitment in the balanced budget to extend health care coverage to 5 million of them who don't have it today.

Again let me say, when something like this happens the President gets to give a speech, but the credit goes to all the people who worked on it, to all the parents, to those who kept working for this even after their children suffered terrible injury and sometimes even death, to all the members of the professional groups. You deserve the credit. And I am very grateful to you for bringing this matter to my attention and giving me the power to use what the law has given me as President to do what you know and to do what you have long known is the right thing to do. This is your day.

As the First Lady has often said, children are not rugged individuals; they depend upon us to give them love and guidance, discipline, and the benefit of good medical care. Today their dependence has been justified. Their future and ours depends upon how well we continue to do this important work.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:19 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Paul Michael Glaser, widower of Pediatric AIDS Foundation founder Elizabeth Glaser; and Regan Ralph, whose son, Sam, was treated for asthma with drugs not labeled specifically for children.

Statement on Signing the Stamp Out Breast Cancer Act

August 13, 1997

Today, I signed into law H.R. 1585, the "Stamp Out Breast Cancer Act." This legislation requires the U.S. Postal Service to establish a special rate of postage for first-class mail that

patrons may use voluntarily to contribute to funding for breast cancer research. Special postal stamps will be made available for this purpose.

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Research and the prompt application of research results are the strongest weapons we have against breast cancer. Today, breast cancer remains the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women. It affects one in eight women in their lifetimes and has touched the families of nearly every American, including my own. But we are making great strides in the study of this disease. Our goal must be to find a cure and a way to prevent breast cancer in the near future.

The bill I am signing into law today builds on this Administration's long history of support

for breast cancer research and prevention. Between 1993 and 1997, funding for breast cancer research at NIH increased 75 percent. We will work to ensure that the new funds from this legislation are not used as a replacement for our current commitment. It creates another way for Americans to further support the important research that will make a difference in the lives of millions of families.

NOTE: H.R. 1585, approved August 13, was assigned Public Law No. 105-41.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979

August 13, 1997

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On August 19, 1994, in light of the expiration of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2401 *et seq.*), I issued Executive Order 12924 declaring a national emergency and continuing the system of export regulation under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*). Under section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), the national emergency terminates on the anniversary date of its declaration unless the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice of its continuation.

I am hereby advising the Congress that I have extended the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12924. Attached is a copy of the notice of extension.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
August 13, 1997.

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks in Support of the Oklahoma City Memorial

August 13, 1997

Thank you very much. Thank you, Mayor, and thank you for your extraordinary leadership in a very difficult time. I thank you, Robert Johnson, for taking on this project and seeing it through with such care and ability and love. Governor, Kathy, thank you for being here. Councilman Schwartz, Madam Attorney General, I would like to thank you and, through you and Mr. Young, all the people who worked

so hard on this from the Federal Government in the days and months and for a long time afterward. And Toby, thank you for the sapling. I will take good care of it. I have already been advised by the people who run the grounds here that I cannot run out and plant it—[laughter]—in the hot Washington summer but that we can keep it in our greenhouse, and then in October we will plant it alongside the dogwood on the