

Statement on House Action on Foster Care Independence Legislation *June 25, 1999*

Hillary and I are pleased that the House of Representatives, by an overwhelming bipartisan margin, today approved H.R. 1802, the "Foster Care Independence Act of 1999." This legislation recognizes that we have a responsibility to ensure that youth in foster care have the tools they need to make the most of their lives. I am pleased that the measure builds on the proposals in my budget request to provide those leaving foster care with access to health care and to expand and improve educational opportunities, training, housing assistance, counseling, and other support and services.

Each year, approximately 20,000 young people leave our Nation's foster care system at age 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent family relationship, but Federal financial support ends just as they are making the critical transition to independence. Without the emotional, social, and financial support that families pro-

vide, many of these young people are not adequately prepared for life on their own.

For our Nation's foster youth, their 18th birthday can be the start of a very tough road alone. This bill is an important step forward to help them in their struggle to become successful, independent adults. The end of foster care should not be the end of caring for these young people.

I'd like to thank Representatives Nancy Johnson and Ben Cardin, the sponsors of the "Foster Care Independence Act of 1999," for their hard work and dedication to this issue. I look forward to working with them and with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle in the months ahead to enact meaningful and fiscally responsible legislation to enable these young people to live up to their God-given potential.

Statement on Accepting the Invitation To Serve as Honorary Chairman of the Presidents Cup *June 25, 1999*

I am pleased to accept the invitation to serve as honorary chairman of the Presidents Cup, one of the premier international events in golf. I thank Commissioner Tim Finchem and the PGA Tour as well as the participating international golf tours for this invitation. It is an honor to succeed Presidents George Bush and Gerald Ford, as well as Australian Prime Minister John Howard, as honorary chairman of this event.

I know that, more and more, people around the world share America's enthusiasm for golf. The Presidents Cup helps bring our countries together in spirited and good-natured competition. In 1996 I was glad to attend the Presidents Cup at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club, and I am looking forward to another display of skill and sportsmanship by the United States and international teams in October 2000.

Message to the Congress on Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act *June 25, 1999*

To the Congress of the United States:

On November 14, 1994, in light of the danger of the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and

chemical weapons (weapons of mass destruction) and of the means of delivering such weapons, using my authority under the International