

## Statement on Signing the Second Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2001

*October 6, 2000*

Today I have signed into law H.J. Res. 110, the second short-term continuing resolution for FY 2001.

The Act provides 2001 appropriations for continuing projects and activities of the Federal Government through October 14, 2000, except those funded by the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2001, and the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001, which I have signed into law.

In February, I sent a budget to the Congress that funded critical investments in our future. I urge the Congress to fund these important national initiatives, including investing in education so that we can stay on a path to hiring 100,000 teachers and reduce class size, modernize and repair our schools, and expand our efforts to strengthen the quality of teachers, the performance of schools, and the accomplishments of our students.

It is also essential that we strengthen our efforts to protect and preserve the environment. Our national security must be provided for, both at home and abroad. Putting more police on the street, and fighting gun violence, helps make this Nation safer for its citizens. Similarly, supporting global leadership and the Nation's diplo-

macy helps make the world safer and more secure for all Americans.

It is important that we fund scientific research and technology, upon which advancements in our economy and sustained prosperity depend. Our Nation's priorities must include the expansion of this current wave of prosperity to all Americans. I urge the Congress to support my efforts to expand this prosperity, including closing the digital divide and funding efforts to bring economic development to underserved areas. I also urge the Congress to support the Equal Pay initiative and civil rights enforcement.

The health of our Nation must not be neglected, and I urge the Congress to act accordingly, including by supporting efforts to help family planning for low-income women.

I urge the Congress to continue to work with my Administration to come to mutually acceptable agreements on the remaining 2001 spending bills and to do so as quickly as possible.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
October 6, 2000.

NOTE: H.J. Res. 110, approved October 6, was assigned Public Law No. 106-282.

## Statement on the National Economy *October 6, 2000*

Today, thanks to our economic strategy and the hard work of the American people, we reached another dramatic milestone in our unprecedented economic expansion—the unemployment rate has fallen to 3.9 percent, matching the lowest level in 30 years. Unemployment for African-Americans fell to the lowest level

ever recorded, and for Hispanics it remains at historic lows. This is more good news for the American people and another reminder that those who advocate irresponsible tax plans that would jeopardize our fiscal progress are taking America down the wrong economic path.

## Statement on the Death of Representative Sidney R. Yates

*October 6, 2000*

Hillary and I are deeply saddened to learn of the death of Congressman Sidney Yates.

From his 2 years in the Navy during World War II to his more than four decades representing the people of Chicago and the North Shore in Congress, Sid Yates was always a fighter—for his district, for the environment, and most notably, for the arts. He once said, “I’ve always wanted Washington to be the artistic capital of the country as well as the political capital.” To that end he succeeded in getting Congress time and time again to finance the National Endowment for the Arts. In appreciation, Congressman Yates was honored in 1998 by the

National Symphony Orchestra at a performance at the Kennedy Center. No public official battled harder or more successfully to support our Nation’s cultural and artistic life than Sid Yates. In recognition of that effort, I had the pleasure of presenting him in 1993 with the Presidential Citizens Medal. After retiring from the House, he continued serving the public as a member of the council of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Everyone who knew Sid will miss his warmth, urbanity, and dedication to his country.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Addie, and to his family and friends.

## Statement on House of Representatives Action on Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Legislation

*October 6, 2000*

I applaud the House of Representatives for passing vital legislation today to combat trafficking in humans and strengthen and reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The “Trafficking Victims Protection Act” will provide important new tools in the campaign to combat trafficking, a modern form of slavery and an insidious human rights abuse. VAWA,

which expired on September 30, has significantly improved the lives of thousands of women who are victims of domestic violence and has assisted State, local, and tribal law enforcement to combat domestic violence and sexual assault. It is imperative that this law be reauthorized this year, and I urge the Senate to pass this legislation without delay.

## Statement on Congressional Action on a National Blood Alcohol Content Standard To Combat Drunk Driving

*October 6, 2000*

I congratulate the Congress for passing landmark legislation today that will help save lives by keeping drunk drivers off the road. Earlier today the Congress overwhelmingly approved a bill that will help establish the first-ever national drunk driving standard at .08 blood alcohol con-

tent (BAC). This groundbreaking measure, which I have long advocated, will save hundreds of lives a year and represents a major victory for public safety and American families all across the country.