

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.

Statement on Assistance to Small Business Exporters and Dislocated Workers

October 6, 2000

I am pleased to sign an Executive order today creating a small business exports task force to help small businesses, especially those in underserved communities, participate fully in the benefits of the new trading arrangements Congress approved this year with China, Africa, and the Caribbean Basin. This order will also expand the Federal Government's outreach to workers and communities eligible for dislocated-worker assistance, helping them to learn about and take advantage of these benefits more rapidly. I

thank Representative Sheila Jackson Lee for working so closely with my administration in developing this Executive order and for championing efforts to translate our expanding trade and dynamic, new economy into opportunities for small businesses and workers all across America.

NOTE: The Executive order is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on Increasing Opportunities and Access for Disadvantaged Businesses

October 6, 2000

I am pleased today to sign an Executive order strengthening our efforts to increase contracting opportunities between the Federal Government and disadvantaged businesses—in particular, small disadvantaged businesses, 8(a) businesses, and minority business enterprises. These businesses play a vital role in our Nation's economy but historically have been underutilized and at times shut out of Federal procurement opportunities. Accordingly, this Executive order directs Federal departments and agencies with procurement authority to take aggressive and specific affirmative actions to ensure inclusion of disadvantaged businesses in Federal contracting.

I want to thank Representatives Kilpatrick, Menendez, Velazquez, and Wynn, and the many others who have worked with us to ensure that the private sector recognizes the importance and utility of contracting with disadvantaged businesses. I particularly commend those members of the advertising community who are working to increase the representation of minorities within advertising—both on the creative end and in transmission to the public. It is critical that the private sector help lead this effort and take advantage of the diverse and creative views that underrepresented groups will bring to the advertising process. I want to commend the American Advertising Federation (AAF) for responding to

the Vice President's challenge and working with interested parties to develop the principles for effective advertising in the American multicultural marketplace, a strategic plan for boosting minority representation in the advertising industry.

Certainly, the Federal Government must play a leading role as well. Advertising and the broader information technology industries play an increasingly expansive role in our society. Therefore, in this Executive order, I am directing each Federal department and agency to ensure that all creation, placement, and transmission of Federal advertising is fully reflective of the Nation's diversity. Further, this Executive order directs each Federal department and agency to take clearly defined and aggressive steps to ensure small and disadvantaged business participation in procurement of information technology and telecommunications contracts.

This Executive order will ensure that Federal departments and agencies are held accountable on these issues. It does so by clearly listing the responsibilities and obligations of each agency to expand opportunities for disadvantaged businesses and requires the agencies to report to me within 90 days of the issuance of this order the steps they plan to take to increase