

Statement on Signing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2000

October 30, 2000

Today I have signed into law H.R. 1654, the “National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2000.”

I commend the bipartisan efforts of the Congress to pass a NASA authorization bill that funds my Administration’s priorities, including building the International Space Station, improving Space Shuttle safety, reducing the cost of access to space through the new Space Launch Initiative, and investing in outstanding science and technology.

I am disappointed, however, that this bill falls short of enabling NASA to conduct the most balanced, efficient, and effective space program. My Administration communicated significant objections and concerns with H.R. 1654 as it progressed through the legislative process. This bill satisfactorily addresses many of the key con-

cerns; however, it limits NASA’s flexibility to pursue a promising commercial habitation module for the International Space Station. It also includes several other objectionable provisions and fails to include all but one of the fourteen legislative provisions proposed by my Administration.

I have signed this bill today because it authorizes funding for a robust space and aeronautics program for the Nation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
October 30, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 1654, approved October 30, was assigned Public Law No. 106–391.

Statement on Signing the Child Citizenship Act of 2000

October 30, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 2883, the “Child Citizenship Act of 2000.” This Act confers U.S. citizenship automatically upon certain foreign-born children, including those adopted by citizens of the United States, who do not acquire U.S. citizenship at birth. This Act eliminates the need in many instances for parents to apply to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for Certificates of Citizenship for their children who are not U.S. citizens at birth.

Under prior law, foreign-born adopted children could be subject to removal if they did not acquire U.S. citizenship after being brought to the United States—even if they had lived their lives since infancy in the United States. While this Act will not remedy past cases where

adopted children were deported, it will ensure that this unfortunate possibility will be eliminated for most noncitizen adopted children under the age of 18 and for all noncitizen children adopted into U.S. households in the future. I welcome this action to support families who adopt foreign-born children by removing an unnecessary impediment to citizenship for these and other foreign-born children.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
October 30, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 2883, approved October 30, was assigned Public Law No. 106–395.