

ensure that the pilot programs provide that complaining parties may opt out of participation in the pilot programs at any time.

- Fourth, I direct you to submit an assessment of the pilot programs, together with the relevant underlying data, to the EEOC within 180 days of the completion of the 3-year pilot program period.

These steps will ensure that important civil rights of civilian employees of the Department of Defense are protected while preserving con-

gressional intent with regard to the creation of the pilot programs.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: H.R. 4205, approved October 30, which incorporated the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 as an appendix, was assigned Public Law No. 106–398. This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 31. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

## Statement on Returning Without Approval to the House of Representatives Legislative Branch, Treasury, and General Appropriations Legislation *October 30, 2000*

I am returning herewith without my approval, H.R. 4516, the Legislative Branch and the Treasury and General Appropriations Act, 2001. This bill provides funds for the legislative branch and the White House at a time when the business of the American people remains unfinished.

The Congress' continued refusal to focus on the priorities of the American people leaves me no alternative but to veto this bill. I cannot in good conscience sign a bill that funds the operations of the Congress and the White House before funding our classrooms, fixing our schools, and protecting our workers.

With the largest student enrollment in history, we need a budget that will allow us to repair and modernize crumbling schools, reduce class size, hire more and better trained teachers, ex-

pand after-school programs, and strengthen accountability to turn around failing schools.

I would sign this legislation in the context of a budget that puts the interests of the American people before self-interest or special interests. I urge the Congress to get its priorities in order and send me, without further delay, balanced legislation I can sign.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
October 30, 2000.

NOTE: This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 31. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

## Remarks on the Veto of Legislative Branch, Treasury, and General Appropriations Legislation and an Exchange With Reporters *October 31, 2000*

*The President.* Good morning—or good afternoon. We are now a full month past the end of the fiscal year and just a week before election day. Congress still hasn't finished its work. There is still no education budget. There is still no increase in the minimum wage, still no Patients' Bill of Rights or hate crimes bill or mean-

ingful tax relief for middle class Americans, even though all these measures have strong bipartisan support in the country and in the Congress.

Today I want to talk about an appropriations bill the Congress did pass. The Treasury/Postal bill funds these two departments, as well as the operations of Congress and the White