

May 9 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

school districts to determine the best way to spend their Federal education dollars.

I urge Members of Congress to continue building upon our efforts to expand parental options. I will support amendments on

the House floor that increase parental options and involvement.

I applaud Chairman John Boehner and Ranking Minority Member George Miller for working in a bipartisan way to move this important piece of legislation forward.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National
Emergency With Respect to Iran
May 9, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national

emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
May 9, 2001.

Remarks Announcing the Nomination of John P. Walters To Be Director
of the Office of National Drug Control Policy
May 10, 2001

The President. Thank you all so very much for being here. It's an honor to see so many Members of the United States Congress who are here. Thank you so very much for coming—and members from both political parties, members who are dedicated to joining with an administration which is dedicated to reducing drug abuse around America. Thank you for being here.

I'm pleased that members of my Cabinet have joined us: the Attorney General of the United States, John Ashcroft; the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson. Thank you all for being here. Mr. Surgeon General, thank you for being here, as well, sir. We're honored to have you here. Also with us is John J. DiIulio, who is the Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. John is on the leading edge of encouraging

faith-based programs to become energized to help people who need help. And John, thank you so much for being here, as well.

I'm honored to be joined on stage by five Americans—well, six Americans—five Americans who won't speak—[*laughter*]—which is saying something for the first American I'm going to introduce, William J. Bennett—[*laughter*]—he was our Nation's first drug czar, former Secretary of Education, a fearless, fearless fighter against drug abuse; as well as Joe A. Califano, who has a center on addiction and substance abuse at Columbia University, former Secretary of Health and Education and Welfare under President Jimmy Carter—as well, like Mr. Bennett, a fearless advocate for those of us who are dedicated to reducing drug abuse. Thank you both for being here.

And we have three members from the community—antidrug community who have joined us. Arthur R. Dean is the chairman and CEO of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. Thank you so much for coming. I appreciate you being here. Jessica Hulse is a member of the Drug-Free Communities Advisory Commission—thank you, Jessica; and Henry Lozano, Californians for Drug-Free Youth, a member of the DFCAC, a graduate from Teen Challenge.

I'm pleased to announce that as of today the Federal Government is waging an all-out effort to reduce illegal drug use in America. And I'm proud to nominate John P. Walters as my Director of National Drug Control Policy, where he will serve as a valuable member of my Cabinet.

Mr. Walters has had a distinguished career in Government. He served as the chief of staff to Bill Bennett and later served as Deputy Director and Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. John will bring tremendous skill, knowledge, and good judgment to this job. He's an articulate advocate, an able administrator, and a man of deep and reasoned convictions. He has repeatedly been called on to provide guidance to the United States Congress. John cares passionately about this issue, and he is the right person to lead America's antidrug efforts.

Our effort rests on the firm belief that by focusing more of our Nation's attention, energy, resources, real progress will be made. From the early 1980s until the early 1990s, drug use amongst high school seniors was reduced every year. We had made tremendous strides in cutting drug use. This cannot be said today. We must do and we will do a better job.

Fortunately, today, we know more about what works in prevention and education, treatment and law enforcement. We will put this knowledge to use. But above all, our efforts rest on an unwavering commitment to stop drug use. Acceptance of drug

use is simply not an option for this administration.

Illegal drugs impose a staggering cost of more than \$100 billion every year, principally from lost productivity. Yet this dollar figure does not capture the human tragedy of drug use: lost lives, educational and job opportunities unmet, families torn apart, health care costs, school dropout rates, and more. Drug use harms people of every economic class, but drug use is doing the most damage to the poor.

John Jacob, former president of the National Urban League, has said that drugs are destroying more children and more families than poverty ever did. John Walters and I believe the only humane and compassionate response to drug use is a moral refusal to accept it. We emphatically disagree with those who favor drug legalization.

Drug legalization would be a social catastrophe. Drug use and addiction would soar. Hospitals would be filled with many more drug emergency cases. Child abuse would increase. The cost of treatment and social welfare would rise. There would be more drug-related accidents at work and on the road. And legalizing drugs would completely undermine the message that drug use is wrong.

A successful antidrug effort depends on a thoughtful and integrated approach. Mr. Walters understands this as well as anybody in America. During his career, he's worked to improve the effectiveness of drug education and prevention programs. He played a key role in ensuring a record commitment of resources to drug treatment and research in a previous administration. He helped ensure that the Federal Government did its part in source countries, on our borders, and on our streets.

My administration will continue to work with nations to eradicate drugs at their source and enforce our borders to stop the flow of drugs into America. This will make working in close cooperation with Mexico

a priority. It will make having strong relations in our hemisphere a priority, a priority which I will keep.

However, the most effective way to reduce the supply of drugs in America is to reduce the demand for drugs in America. Therefore, this administration will focus unprecedented attention on the demand side of this problem. We recognize that the most important work to reduce drug use is done in America's living rooms and classrooms, in churches and synagogues and mosques, in the workplace, and in our neighborhoods.

Families, schools, communities, and faith-based organizations shape the character of young people. They teach children right from wrong, respect for law, respect for others, and respect for themselves. They're indispensable, and my administration stands ready to assist them in every possible way.

Joe Califano is the president of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse and a man whose research has helped shape my thinking. Joe has said that teens of parents who eat, talk, pray, and play together are not likely to be lured into the world of drugs. A child who reaches age 21 without using illegal drugs is virtually certain never to do so. And children cite parents as the number one reason they don't use drugs. And so we'll energize the parents movement by creating a Parent Drug Corps, which will provide needed support to educate and train parents in effective drug prevention.

We must increase funding for drug-free communities programs and for the drug-free workplace program. And within 30 days, Professor John DiIulio will compile a complete inventory of existing Federal antidrug partnerships with local faith-based and community groups and work with John Walters to strengthen those efforts.

Despite every effort, however, some individuals will become addicted to drugs. There are around 5 million hardcore users of illegal drugs in America today. And while

they represent one-third of the drug users, they consume two-thirds of all drugs. It is estimated that more than half of them are not receiving any treatment.

I am, therefore, asking Secretary Tommy Thompson to conduct a State-by-State inventory of treatment needs and capacity, and report back within 120 days on how to most effectively close the treatment gap in this country. In order to close that treatment gap, we'll provide \$1.6 billion over the next 5 years.

We want to advance our understanding of drug abuse and addiction, so we're planning to significantly increase funding for the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. We also recognize the benefits of coerced abstinence, and so we will support drug courts and drug testing for prisoners, probationers, and parolees.

We know that inmates receiving drug treatment are 73 percent less likely to be re-arrested and 44 percent less likely to use drugs than those who receive no treatment at all. I'm, therefore, asking the Attorney General, John Ashcroft, to come up with a comprehensive plan within 120 days to ensure our Federal prisons are drug-free, to expand drug testing for probationers and parolees, and to strengthen our system of drug courts around the Nation.

We must reduce drug use for one great moral reason: Over time, drugs rob men, women, and children of their dignity and of their character. Illegal drugs are the enemies of innocence and ambition and hope. They undermine people's commitment to their family and to their fellow citizens. My administration will send a clear and consistent message that drug use is dangerous and drug use is wrong.

John Walters will lead that effort with firm resolve and a caring heart. He will do an exceptional job. I am proud to submit his name to the United States Senate, and I look forward to working with Members of the House and the Senate from

both political parties to reduce drug use in America.

I'm honored to welcome so many people who devote their lives to the well-being of others to the Rose Garden here in the White House. I want to God bless—thank you for your work and ask God's blessings on your work and this great Nation of ours.

It's my honor to welcome John Walters.

[At this point, Director-designate Walters made brief remarks.]

The President. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:57 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director-designate Walters.

Remarks to the Vienna-Madison Community Anti-Drug Coalition in Vienna, Virginia *May 10, 2001*

Thank you so very much for that gracious welcome. It's my honor to be here with my newly designated Director of the National Drug Policy, and that is John Walters.

I appreciate so very much General Arthur Dean for being here, as well. He's the chairman and CEO of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. I want to thank Clarence Jones, who is the coordinator of Safe and Drug-Free Youth Section of the Fairfax County Public School System. Thank you very much. And Diane Eckert, program specialist in Safe and Drug-Free Youth Section of the Fairfax County Schools, thank you, Diane. And thank you for the tour.

It's also a great pleasure to be here with the Congressman from this district, Tom Davis. Thank you very much for being here, Tom. And the mayor of Vienna, Virginia—thank you, Madam Mayor, for coming. I appreciate you being here. I know we have members of the House of Delegates here from the State of Virginia. Thank you for coming. The Speaker is here. I appreciate you for being here, Mr. Speaker.

It is my honor to tour this center. And the reason I'm here is because today I talked about a goal of my administration

and a goal of this Nation, and that is to wage a war on drug abuse in America, a serious effort. In my speech, when I introduced John to the Nation, I talked about the need for us to continue serious efforts of interdiction, to work with neighbors to the south of ourselves, to make sure that we interrupt the supply of drugs coming into America.

One of the things I'm proud of is my close relations with Vicente Fox, the President of Mexico. The President of Mexico has pledged to work with us to do a good job of stopping the flow of drugs across our borders. We're very much involved in the—Colombia, in the Andes, trying to eradicate coca leaves before they're manufactured into cocaine. So we'll continue to do the best we can to interdict supplies.

But the best ways to affect supply is to reduce demand for drugs. The best way to impact supply of drugs coming into America is to convince our fellow citizens not to use drugs in the first place.

This is a national problem, but our administration believes the solution is found at the local level, through community coalitions where people of good faith and good heart come together, people from all walks