

Nov. 13 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

The White House,

November 12, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2311, approved November 12, was assigned Public Law No. 107-66. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13.

Statement on Signing the Treasury and General Government
Appropriations Act, 2002
November 12, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2590, the "Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002."

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. The bill abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of \$686 billion and supports several of my Administration's key initiatives with funding for:

- the Prevention of Youth and Gang Violence Initiative, enabling the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to continue its two programs that focus on youth violence reduction;
- the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act Initiative, which will allow continued implementation of this Act by the United States Customs Service;
- the New Counterdrug Research and Technology Initiative, which doubles the FY 2000 request for the Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center; and,
- the Drug Free Communities Initiative.

The Act funds the Department of the Treasury's law enforcement bureaus at \$4.8 billion, which is comprised of \$2.7 billion for the U.S. Customs Service to protect our Nation's borders and to facilitate the flow of legitimate trade and passengers, and \$924 million for the protective operations of the United States Secret Service, including \$45 million for additional special agents. The Act augments funding for Treasury's ongoing efforts to target, detect, and dismantle terrorist fund-raising and money

laundering at home and abroad. In addition, the Act provides \$139 million for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to train Federal, State, and local law enforcement personnel.

I am pleased that the bill continues current law provisions that prohibit the use of Federal funds to pay for abortions in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, except in cases where the life of the mother is endangered, or the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.

Unfortunately, the Act does not include my proposal to consolidate the eighteen separate appropriations into a single appropriation for the Executive Office of the President. The Congress' continued insistence on specifying in extraordinary detail the specific operations of the Executive Office of the President unnecessarily infringes on my ability to freely manage my own office to meet the Nation's needs.

My Administration appreciates that the Congress has worked expeditiously during this difficult and trying time in our Nation's history to consider the FY 2002 appropriations bills. Now, through a renewed sense of bipartisanship, the Congress and the Administration must work together to ensure the timely enactment of the remaining bills.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
November 12, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2590, approved November 12, was assigned Public Law No. 107-67. This

statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13.

Statement on Signing the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2002 *November 12, 2001*

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2647, the “Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2002.”

The Act provides Fiscal Year 2002 appropriations for the Congress, the Congressional Budget Office, the Architect of the Capitol, the General Accounting Office, the Government Printing Office, and the Library of Congress.

My Administration appreciates that the Congress has worked expeditiously during this difficult and trying time in our Nation’s history to consider the Fiscal Year 2002 appropriations bills. Now, through a re-

newed sense of bipartisanship, the Congress and the Administration must work together to ensure the timely enactment of the remaining bills.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
November 12, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2647, approved November 12, was assigned Public Law No. 107–68. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13.

The President’s News Conference With President Vladimir Putin of Russia *November 13, 2001*

President Bush. It’s a great honor for me to welcome President Vladimir Putin to the White House and to welcome his wife as well. This is a new day in the long history of Russian-American relations, a day of progress and a day of hope.

The United States and Russia are in the midst of a transformation of a relationship that will yield peace and progress. We’re transforming our relationship from one of hostility and suspicion to one based on co-operation and trust that will enhance opportunities for peace and progress for our citizens and for people all around the world.

The challenge of terrorism makes our close cooperation on all issues even more urgent. Russia and America share the same threat and the same resolve. We will fight and defeat terrorist networks wherever they

exist. Our highest priority is to keep terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

Today we agreed that Russian and American experts will work together to share information and expertise to counter the threat from bioterrorism. We agreed that it is urgent that we improve the physical protection and accounting of nuclear materials and prevent illicit nuclear trafficking. And we will strengthen our efforts to cut off every possible source of biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons, materials, and expertise. Today we also agreed to work more closely to combat organized crime and drug trafficking, a leading source of terrorist financing.

Both nations are committed to the reconstruction of Afghanistan, once hostilities there have ceased and the Taliban are no