

peace and promote rule of law. They bring countries of the Balkans are part of a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace.

Statement on Signing the ILSA Extension Act of 2001 *August 3, 2001*

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 1954, the “ILSA Extension Act of 2001.” This Act provides for a 5-year extension of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) with amendments that affect certain of the investment provisions.

I believe that we should review sanctions frequently to assess their effectiveness and continued suitability. A new provision in this bill mandates a report on the impact of certain actions taken pursuant to the Act. I approve of this statutorily mandated requirement to periodically assess the effectiveness of sanctions and to recommend whether the Congress should terminate or modify the Act. The Act also continues the President’s power to waive sanctions in the national interest.

My Administration shares the Congress’ deep concerns about the objectionable policies and behavior of Iran and Libya. We are addressing these concerns in a number of ways. In particular, we are strengthening our efforts with other countries, whose cooperation is essential to pursuing the most effective approaches to solving the problems of proliferation and terrorism addressed by ILSA.

Libya must address its obligations under U.N. Security Council Resolutions. These relate to the 1988 Lockerbie bombing and require Libya to accept responsibility for the actions of Libyan officials, disclose all it knows about the bombing, renounce terrorism, and pay appropriate compensation. Cooperative action by Libya on these four issues would make it possible for us to begin to move toward a more constructive relationship.

With respect to Iran, we continue to have serious concerns over its support for terrorism, opposition to the Middle East peace process, and pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. I hope that the Iranian people’s recently expressed desire for a freer, more open, and more prosperous society will give our two countries an opportunity to identify areas where our interests converge, and where we can work together constructively for our mutual benefit.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
August 3, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 1954, approved August 3, was assigned Public Law No. 107–24.

The President’s Radio Address *August 4, 2001*

Good morning. This week in Washington we made dramatic progress on health care, and today I want to extend that progress one step further.

On Wednesday I shook hands with Representative Charlie Norwood of Georgia, agreeing to strong patient protection legislation. Representative Norwood is the chief congressional champion of that issue. And

together, we broke 6 years of legislative gridlock.

The next day the House of Representatives, based on our agreement, passed a good bill to give patients the care they deserve without encouraging frivolous lawsuits. The legislation protects every patient in all 50 States when a health plan wrongly denies or delays needed care. Patients are guaranteed a quick independent review of their case and new Federal remedies to hold their health plans accountable. They get a strong new set of rights in our health care system without driving up the cost of health insurance and discouraging employers from offering coverage.

This legislation is welcome news for patients. And I want to continue this momentum. Today I'm announcing a new initiative to expand health insurance for the uninsured by making the Medicaid program more accessible. Medicaid is designed to provide low-income Americans with medical insurance. It has a noble purpose and some serious challenges.

Medicaid spending is rising dramatically, but the number of low income Americans without insurance remains high. Clearly, this important program needs reform. Yet, States have great difficulty reforming their Medicaid programs because of complex and cumbersome Federal requirements. It is hard for States—much too hard—to navigate the confusing and inconsistent Federal approval process.

Today we are changing that. My administration will adopt new rules that empower States to propose reforms tailored to the needs of their citizens. We will act on pro-

posals quickly without making States wait for months or years for an answer.

In return for this flexibility, we will ask the States to help ensure that their programs broaden coverage for low-income Americans. When States are free to try new approaches, the results are encouraging. Just a few months ago, New York State, led by George Pataki, asked for and got permission to try a new idea to cover more people with the same dollars. As a result, as many as 619,000 more New Yorkers will soon have health insurance.

In our new system, we will inform States in advance of the criteria for responsible Medicaid reform. If they meet those conditions, the Federal Government stands ready to help expand health insurance coverage to those who need it most—no uncertainty and no runaround.

The goals of Medicaid are too important to get bogged down in a bureaucracy. My administration cares about results, about getting Americans broader and better medical coverage. And on issues from Medicaid to patient protection, we are seeing results for the American people.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:55 a.m. on August 3 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 4. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 3 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Gov. George E. Pataki of New York. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Exchange With Reporters in Waco, Texas August 7, 2001

President's Vacation

Q. What are you doing?

The President. It's nice to be home, for starters. This is my home; this is where