

Statement on Senate Passage of Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Legislation

May 13, 2004

I am pleased that the Senate passed the “Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act,” which would continue to build on the great progress we have made in helping children with disabilities achieve their full potential. By working together to open doors for citizens with disabilities, we can help fulfill the promise of our great Nation.

This legislation will further promote educational opportunities for children with dis-

abilities. I am committed to working together with students, parents, teachers, schools, and communities to ensure that all children are given every chance to learn and to reach their full potential, including children with disabilities.

I urge the House and Senate to meet in a timely manner in order to reach agreement on a final legislative package that I can sign into law this year.

Remarks at the American Conservative Union 40th Anniversary Gala

May 13, 2004

Thank you all very much. Thanks a lot. I’m honored to join you here for the 40th anniversary of the American Conservative Union. I bring greetings from the A team in my family, Laura Bush. I am a—you got stuck with the junior varsity. *[Laughter]* I’m a lucky man to be married to Laura. She is a fabulous person, great mom, great wife, and I think she deserves 4 more years as the First Lady.

I just left a meeting with our fabulous Vice President, and he sends his best. He’s still pretty proud of his last year in the House, when he received a 100-percent rating from the ACU. He didn’t mention that one when you gave him a 90. *[Laughter]* The ACU doesn’t rate Presidents, but a President can rate you. This is a fine group of decent citizens, principled citizens, and tonight I am proud to stand with the ACU.

And I appreciate my friend David Keene, the chairman. This is his 20th anniversary. He is the longest serving chairman in ACU history. As one of his predecessors said about David’s long tenure, “So long as it’s

not a paying job, he won’t have any competition.” *[Laughter]*

I met David’s daughter, Private 1st Class Lisa Keene. And I’m proud that she is volunteering in the United States Army, but not nearly as proud as her dad.

I appreciate being up here with some fine Members of Congress. Senator Mitch McConnell, the dinner cochair, good to see you, Mitch. Thank you. I see Senator Jim Bunning is here today. Thank you for cochairing this as well. I’m pulling for you in the reelection. I know Chris Cox is here as well. Congressman Cox is a fine Member of the Congress and a good friend. And of course, former ACU chairman—I don’t think he was the guy that gave me that quote, by the way—and that would be Congressman Phil Crane. Appreciate you being here. I see other Members of the Senate and the House who are here. Thanks for coming; good to see you all.

I know members of my administration are here. I see Kay James, who’s the Director of the Office of Personnel Management. I appreciate you being here, Kay. John