

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Eunice Kennedy Shriver, found-

er, Special Olympics. H.R. 1350, approved December 3, was assigned Public Law No. 108-446.

Statement on Signing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004

December 3, 2004

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 1350, the “Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.” The Act strengthens the ability of the Federal Government to assist States in the education of children with disabilities.

The executive branch shall construe provisions of the Act that require taking account of race, culture, gender, age, region, socioeconomics, ideology, secularity, and partisan politics, including sections 612, 616, 618, 637, 663, 664, and 681 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as enacted by section 101 of the Act, and section 177(b)(3) of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, as enacted by section 201(a)(2) of the Act, in a manner consistent with the First Amendment and the requirement of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution to afford equal protection of the laws.

The executive branch shall construe section 615(e)(2)(G) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as enacted by section 101 of the Act, as establishing a duty for a State to follow the specified statutory exclusionary rule only when that duty is a condition of a Federal grant or contract accepted by or under the authority of that State, as is consistent with the principles governing Federal-State relations enunciated by the Supreme Court of the United States in *Printz v. United States*.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
December 3, 2004.

NOTE: H.R. 1350, approved December 3, was assigned Public Law No. 108-446.

Statement on the Resignation of Tommy G. Thompson as Secretary of Health and Human Services

December 3, 2004

I have known Tommy Thompson for many years—first when we served as Governors and then as my Secretary of Health and Human Services. He is a friend and a true public servant who worked every day to make Americans healthier and to help more Americans in need achieve the

dream of independence and personal responsibility.

He worked to modernize and add prescription drug coverage to Medicare for the first time in the program’s history. He focused on expanding services to seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income Americans. He led the effort to broaden

the network of community health centers across our country and to advance the development and use of health information technology. Throughout his career as Governor and as Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy has led efforts to reform welfare laws and help more people transition from welfare to work.

Tommy has been a stalwart member of my homeland security team, especially through his contributions to our Nation's response to the threat of bioterrorism. And he has done a superb job in our compas-

sionate mission of helping those here and abroad fight the scourge of the HIV/AIDS virus.

Tommy served as Governor of Wisconsin for 14 years and has served as Secretary of Health and Human Services for 4 years, and I appreciate his desire to tackle new challenges. I wish Tommy and Sue Ann all the best.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also made available Secretary Thompson's letter of resignation.

Statement on the Resignation of John C. Danforth as United States Ambassador to the United Nations *December 3, 2004*

Jack Danforth has served with distinction as United States Ambassador to the United Nations. He represented our Nation ably and well during a time when we are waging a global war on terror. Because of his tireless efforts as Special Envoy to the Sudan, the world is closer than ever to seeing an end to the Sudanese North-South conflict. Throughout his life, including as a distin-

guished United States Senator and as Attorney General of Missouri, Jack Danforth has been a man of strong convictions and deep integrity who has made our country better and stronger. I understand his desire to return home to Missouri, and I thank Jack for his superb service and his friendship. I wish Sally and him all the best.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan and an Exchange With Reporters *December 4, 2004*

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome a friend, a leader, President Musharraf of Pakistan. He is a person with whom I've worked very closely over the past 4 years, a person with whom I look forward to working closely over the next 4 years. And we had a really good discussion.

We discussed international politics. I assured President Musharraf that there is an opportunity at hand to work toward the

development of a Palestinian state and peace in the Middle East. I told him that this will be a priority of my administration. The goal is two states living side by side in peace and security.

We spent time talking about our bilateral relations. We reviewed the relationship between India and Pakistan. He has showed great courage in that relationship, leading toward what we hope will be a peaceful