

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