

Statement on Signing Legislation for the Relief of the Parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo

March 21, 2005

Today I signed into law a bill that will allow Federal courts to hear a claim by or on behalf of Terri Schiavo for violation of her rights relating to the withholding or withdrawal of food, fluids, or medical treatment necessary to sustain her life. In cases like this one, where there are serious questions and substantial doubts, our society, our laws, and our courts should have a presumption in favor of life. This pre-

sumption is especially critical for those like Terri Schiavo who live at the mercy of others. I appreciate the bipartisan action by the Members of Congress to pass this bill. I will continue to stand on the side of those defending life for all Americans, including those with disabilities.

NOTE: S. 686, approved March 21, was assigned Public Law No. 109-3.

Remarks to Senior Citizens in Albuquerque, New Mexico

March 22, 2005

The President. Listen, thank you all for letting the Senator and I come by. We're thrilled to be—I'm thrilled to be back in New Mexico. You know, it's right across the border from right where I was raised. But I'm here today to talk about Social Security. I know it's of concern to you; it's of concern to me as well.

My message to people that are getting their Social Security check is pretty simple, and it's this: The Government is going to keep its promise. You just don't have to worry about it. I know there are some conflicting messages out there, but it's just not the truth. The truth is you're going to get your checks. The question is whether or not your grandchildren are going to get their checks. [*Laughter*] And that's what the Senator and I are here to talk about today, because we want to make sure that not only is the safety net solid for you but that there's is a safety net for your children.

People oftentimes ask me, did Franklin Roosevelt do the right thing with Social Security? And my answer is, absolutely. My

predecessor, Franklin Roosevelt, did the right thing in setting up the Social Security system. And now we've got to make sure the Social Security system works for generations. And that's why we're in town—that's why I'm in town; Pete is in town because he lives here. [*Laughter*]

But thanks for letting us come by. It's great to see you.

Audience member. It's great to see you.

The President. How was the egg?

Audience member. Marvelous.

Audience member. We have the best cook.

The President. Good.

Senator Pete V. Domenici. We don't get to eat, Mr. President.

The President. No, that's right; we've got to go work. [*Laughter*]

Audience member. Can I shake your hand?

The President. Yes sir, you can. Thanks for letting us come by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:18 a.m. at the Bear Canyon Senior Center.