

I'd like to see this occasion to thank you both and, through you, all of the American people and to reaffirm our determination to continue to pursue terrorism without equivocation—and determination and resolve.

Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:52 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

Statement on the Launch of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* July 26, 2005

On behalf of all Americans, I wish the crew of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* a safe and successful mission. Today's launch marks NASA's return to flight following the tragic loss of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* crew in February 2003. I thank the men and women of NASA who have dedicated

themselves to putting our space program back on track. Our space program is a source of great national pride, and this flight is an essential step toward our goal of continuing to lead the world in space science, human space flight, and space exploration.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Small Business Health Insurance Legislation July 26, 2005

I applaud the House of Representatives for passing the "Small Business Health Fairness Act," which will increase the availability of Association Health Plans. AHPs are a fair, innovative, and commonsense approach to make health insurance more affordable and accessible, one of my top domestic priorities. By letting small businesses join together to buy insurance at the same

discounts big companies get, this bill will help workers and their families have more health care choices and obtain greater savings. This change is overdue, and I urge the Senate to follow the House's lead and pass this good legislation this year.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 525.

Statement on the Innovations in American Government Award July 27, 2005

I am pleased that my administration's Office of Management and Budget has received the Kennedy School's Innovation in American Government Award for its Program Assessment Rating Tool. I congratulate the hard-working employees at OMB

for winning this award and implementing our management agenda. Taxpayer money should be spent wisely or not at all, and I am proud of the progress we have made to improve management and focus on results. We are changing the way the Federal

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Government thinks about program management and budgeting. We still have work to do, and improving the effectiveness of

Government and providing good value to taxpayers will continue to be a top priority of my administration.

Statement on the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate

July 27, 2005

The United States has joined with Australia, China, India, Japan, and South Korea to create a new Asia-Pacific partnership on clean development, energy security, and climate change. This new results-oriented partnership will allow our nations to develop and accelerate deployment of cleaner, more efficient energy technologies to meet national pollution reduction, energy security, and climate change concerns in ways

that reduce poverty and promote economic development. The six Asia-Pacific partners will build on our strong history of common approaches and demonstrated cooperation on clean energy technologies. I have directed Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Energy Sam Bodman to meet with their counterparts this fall to carry forward our new partnership and provide direction for our joint work.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement

July 28, 2005

I am proud that the House of Representatives has acted to advance America's economic and national security interests by passing the CAFTA-DR agreement. CAFTA helps ensure that free trade is fair trade. By lowering trade barriers to American goods in Central American markets to a level now enjoyed by their goods in the U.S., this agreement will level the playing field and help American workers, farmers, and small businesses. The agreement is

more than a trade bill; it is a commitment of freedom-loving nations to advance peace and prosperity throughout the Western Hemisphere. We have a moral obligation and a vital national security interest in helping the democracies of Central America and the Dominican Republic succeed, and CAFTA furthers that goal. I look forward to signing this important legislation into law.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Medical Liability Reform Legislation

July 28, 2005

I am pleased that the House of Representatives has again passed medical liability

reform legislation. The Nation's medical liability system is badly broken, as frivolous