

ready-to-go projects of needed Federal assistance.

I recognize the widespread transportation needs of our country, which is why transportation infrastructure investment during my Administration has increased by 32 percent above the previous Administration's average. However, our transportation investment must be strategic and applied to critical needs, and excessive earmarking can undermine this goal. I ask the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to work with the Department of Transportation to see that essential projects that can quickly utilize Federal funding are given the ability to move forward.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 9, 1999.

NOTE: H.R. 2084, approved October 9, was assigned Public Law No. 106-69. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 12.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Extend Bankruptcy Relief to Family Farmers

October 9, 1999

I have signed into law S. 1606, which extends the provisions of chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy Code until July 1, 2000.

Chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy Code was enacted in 1986 to provide bankruptcy relief to our Nation's family farmers, enabling them to avoid the loss of their farms and their way of life. Chapter 12 has also benefited creditors, who would be unlikely to obtain repayment if these farmers went out of business.

This is the third short-term extension of chapter 12 that I have approved since last fall. As I stated in March when I approved the most recent extension, I urge the Congress to make chapter 12 permanent.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 9, 1999.

NOTE: S. 1606, approved October 9, was assigned Public Law No. 106-70. This statement was re-

leased by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 12.

Remarks to the American Academy of Pediatrics

October 12, 1999

Thank you very much, President Alpert—*[laughter]*—President-elect Cook. Seems like just yesterday I had that title for a while. *[Laughter]* To the executive board and the members of the American Academy of Pediatrics, thank you for welcoming me here. I am told that I'm the first President ever to address your convention, but I know—I know that Hillary spoke to you in 1993, and I was—I was thinking of, given the difference in our respective political prospects for the future, we should have reversed the order. *[Laughter]* But we just got back this morning from Camp David, where we celebrated our 24th anniversary, and she asked me to give you her regards, so I do so today.

I'm delighted to be here. I think pediatricians have a special place in the hearts of every person who has ever been privileged to either be treated by one or have his or her children treated by one. Just a few weeks ago, the man who was my doctor in Hot Springs, Arkansas, when I was a little boy, Dr. Joe Rosenzweig, came to see me with his wife and his grandchildren. I regularly stay in touch with Dr. Betty Lowe, who once headed this distinguished group and took care of Chelsea when she was a little girl. And so I feel a great personal bond to the work that you do.

And you should feel a great personal bond to the work that I do. I mean, Washington is the only place outside of a pediatrician's office where you can hear so much screaming and crying on a daily basis. *[Laughter]* And we all—all the politicians here have a lot in common with doctors. We all want to prescribe medicine, and no one wants to take it. *[Laughter]* But screaming and crying are part of the process of getting better, in medicine and in politics.

Let me echo some of the things that Dr. Alpert has said. I am profoundly grateful for the things that we have done together and the leadership that you have taken to make