

meaning of Article I, section 7, clause 2 of the Constitution, my withholding of approval from the bill precludes its becoming law. The Pocket Veto Case, 279 U.S. 655 (1929). In addition to withholding my signature and thereby invoking my constitutional power to “pocket veto” bills during an adjournment of the Congress, to avoid litigation, I am also sending H.R. 8 to the House of Representatives with my objections, to leave no possible doubt that I have vetoed the measure.

I continue to welcome the opportunity to work with the Congress on a bipartisan basis on tax legislation that is targeted, fiscally responsible, and geared towards continuing the economic strength we all have worked so hard to achieve.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
August 31, 2000.

**Statement on the National
Household Survey on Drug Abuse**
August 31, 2000

Today’s 1999 National Household Survey demonstrates that we are continuing to move in the right direction on the problem of youth drug and tobacco use in America. The report released by Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Barry McCaffrey shows that last year illicit drug use by young people ages 12–17 declined for the third year in a row. Since 1997, overall youth drug use is down by more than 20 percent, and youth marijuana use has declined by over 25 percent. In addition, while today’s report shows underage alcohol use is still at unacceptable levels, it also shows that tobacco use among young people is beginning to decline significantly, following a period of increases earlier in the 1990’s.

These findings prove that we are successfully reversing dangerous trends and making important progress. However, none of us can afford to let down our guard in the fight against drug, tobacco, and alcohol abuse—especially when it comes to our children. While we must continue to engage communities, parents, teachers, and young people

in our efforts to drive youth drug and tobacco use down to even lower levels, Congress must also play an important role.

When Congress returns to Washington, I urge them to build on our success by fully funding my administration’s substance abuse prevention and treatment initiatives, including the Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, which is sending a powerful message to young people across the nation about the dangers of drugs. Congress should also join Vice President Gore and me in making the health of our children a priority by rejecting the interests of big tobacco and letting the American taxpayers have their day in court. Working together, we can give our children healthy drug- and tobacco-free futures.

**Proclamation 7336—America Goes
Back to School, 2000**

August 31, 2000

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

For America’s students, the new school year is a time for learning lessons, making friends, and setting goals. For America’s parents, it is a time to focus on the role education plays in their children’s lives and future. And for our Nation, it is a time to strengthen our efforts to improve the quality of education and to make America’s schools safe, nurturing places where children can reach their full potential.

This year a record 53 million young people will fill our schools—the highest enrollment in our Nation’s history—and communities across the country are struggling to provide adequate classroom space and to hire qualified teachers to meet students’ needs. To assist local school districts in meeting these critical challenges, my Administration’s proposed education budget for fiscal 2001 includes tax credits and loans to help communities build and modernize 6,000 schools and to make emergency repairs to another 25,000. We have also requested an additional \$1.75 billion to meet our goal of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size in the early grades and \$1 billion in new

funds to recruit and train high-quality teachers for every grade level. And we have proposed dramatic increases in the Federal investment in after-school and summer school programs, safe and drug-free schools, and support to help States and districts to turn around failing schools. These critical investments, coupled with my Administration's ongoing commitment to high standards and accountability, will help children across the country reach their full potential.

While the Federal Government has an important role to play in improving the quality of American education, it is the efforts of local school boards, families, and communities, working together, that make the crucial difference in preparing our children for the future. Parents who read with their children, monitor homework and out-of-school activities, demand high academic standards and challenging coursework, and encourage greater community support and investment in school activities have an enormous impact on their children's academic success. Similarly, businesses with family-friendly leave policies, community organizations that offer after-school programs, libraries that provide access to computers and educational software, volunteers who help children read or who serve as mentors—all of these people and programs help create supportive environments that enable students to make the most of their education.

America Goes Back to School is a nationwide initiative, in partnership with the Department of Education, to encourage and support family and community involvement in improving children's learning. The initiative's theme, "Challenge Our Students and They Will Soar," reflects the importance of setting high expectations for America's young people and reminds us that we each have a role to play in providing our Nation's students with the schools, teachers, and standards they need to achieve their dreams and succeed in this new century.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 4 through September 10, 2000, as a time when America Goes Back to School. I encourage

parents, schools, community and State leaders, businesses, civic and religious organizations, and the people of the United States to observe this period with appropriate ceremonies and activities expressing support for high academic standards and promoting family and community involvement in providing a quality education for every child.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 5.

Remarks at Georgetown University *September 1, 2000*

Thank you very much. When you gave us such a warm welcome and then you applauded some of Dean Gallucci's early lines, I thought to myself, "I'm glad he can get this sort of reception, because I gave him a lot of thankless jobs to do in our administration where no one ever applauded." And he did them brilliantly. I'm delighted to see him here succeeding so well as the dean. And Provost Brown, thank you for welcoming me here.

I told them when I came in I was sort of glad Father O'Donovan wasn't here today, because I come so often, I know that at some point, if I keep doing this, he will tell me that he's going to send a bill to the U.S. Treasury for the Georgetown endowment. [Laughter]

I was thinking when we came out here and Bob talked about the beginning of the school year that it was 35 years ago when, as a sophomore, I was in charge of the freshman orientation. So I thought I should come and help this year's orientation of freshmen get off to a good start. I also was thinking, I confess, after your rousing welcome, that if I were still a candidate for public office, I might get up and say hello and sit down and quit while I'm ahead. [Laughter]