

sure the Medicare system works. And Government can pass money out. Sometimes we do a pretty good job of it. [*Laughter*] But what it cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or sense of purpose in people's lives.

The best way to convert the evil done to America to some good is to recognize there's pockets of despair and hopelessness in America. There's loneliness. There's addiction. There are people who hurt in our midst. And so long as some of us hurt, we all hurt. And the best way to cure that loneliness and hurt is for a fellow American to put their arm around somebody in need and say, "I love you. What can I do to help you?"

You see, the enemy had no idea who they were hitting. They didn't understand America like I do and you do. This is a country full of people that are decent and honorable, people who learned the lesson of Flight 93. That was the lesson of people who were flying across the country. They heard the plane was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves.

No, the American spirit of sacrifice and service and compassion and love is alive and strong. And therefore, I boldly predict that out of the evil done to America will not only come a more peaceful world, but out of the evil done to America will be a more compassionate America, where the great hope of this country, the great vibrancy of the American Dream, will be alive and well in every corner, in every neighborhood here in America. I'm an optimistic fellow because I understand that America is the greatest country, full of the finest people on the face of this Earth.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Joan Allard, wife of Senator Wayne Allard; Gov. Bill Owens of Colorado, and his wife, Frances; Marilyn Musgrave, candidate for Colorado's Fourth Congressional District; Ken Chlouber, candidate for Colorado's First Congressional District; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the

September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Remarks on Signing the Help America Vote Act of 2002

October 29, 2002

The President. Thanks for coming. Good morning.

Before we begin today, I would like to pause and remember a devoted public servant who was taken from us last Friday, along with his wife and his daughter and several other members—several other Americans. Paul Wellstone was a deeply principled and a good-hearted man. He will be missed by all who knew him and by all who had the privilege of serving with him. So before we begin, would you join me in a moment of silence in honor of his memory.

[*At this point, a moment of silence was observed.*]

The President. Today I'm proud to sign into law an important reform for our Nation. Americans are a self-governing people, and the central commitment of self-government is free and fair elections. The Help America Vote Act of 2002 is a bipartisan measure to help States and localities update their systems of voting and ensure the integrity of elections in America.

The commission that helped inspire this legislation was led by two exceptional Americans, with broad experience in public service, our 38th and 39th President—Presidents. [*Laughter*] Although Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter could not be here today, our Nation is grateful for their work on election reform and for all they have given to America. We're pleased, however to be joined by the co-chairmen of the commission, former Congressman Bob Michel of Illinois, former Presidential Counselor Lloyd Cutler. Thank you both for coming. Thank you for your good work.

I also appreciate—I also want to thank the Members of Congress who are here with us today. I particularly want to thank Senator Christopher Dodd and Congressman Bob Ney for their hard work on this legislation. I appreciate Senators Mitch McConnell and Kit Bond for joining us. I appreciate Jim

Langevin from Rhode Island for coming. And I'm honored that Connie Morella from Maryland is with us as well. And Steny Hoyer, from Maryland, has joined us as well. These Members worked hard, along with the chairman, John Conyers, of the State of Michigan. The Members didn't let—didn't get discouraged. They worked through the issues, and they produced a really good piece of legislation. I'm proud to be able to sign this bill.

I also want to thank the four secretaries of state from around the country who have joined us. I appreciate you taking time to witness this important—the signing of this important piece of legislation.

The vitality of America's democracy depends on the fairness and accuracy of America's elections. Over two centuries our country has broadened the right to vote and sealed that right in law, making our Government more accountable to the people and more representative of the people. When problems arise in the administration of elections, we have a responsibility to fix them. Every registered voter deserves to have confidence that the system is fair and elections are honest, that every vote is recorded and that the rules are consistently applied.

The legislation I sign today will add to the Nation's confidence. Each State will be required to maintain a clean and current and accurate State—statewide list of registered voters, making it easier to register and easier to detect fraud. Under this law, people registering to vote are required to prove that they are who they say they are with appropriate identification. First-time voters who register by mail will be asked to provide identification when they cast their ballots. This law also creates new criminal penalties for providing false information and punishes anyone guilty of conspiracy to deprive voters of a fair election.

Each polling place must have at least one voting machine accessible to persons with disabilities. When people show up at the polls and their voting registration is in doubt, they should not be turned away but allowed to cast a provisional ballot so their vote can be counted if it is later verified that they are properly registered. And every State must have a fair procedure for hearing and resolv-

ing voter complaints. Under these reforms, training and education will be provided to pollworkers and voters, reducing the possibility of confusion and error at the polls.

Along with the resources come high standards for the integrity of elections. States must ensure that voting systems have minimal rates of error and allow voters a reasonable opportunity to review their ballots and correct any mistakes before a vote is cast.

The administration of elections is primarily a State and local responsibility. The fairness of all elections, however, is a national priority. And through these reforms, the Federal Government will help State and local officials to conduct elections that have the confidence of all Americans. We're counting on these officials to meet their responsibilities to protect the sanctity of the vote and to encourage Americans to exercise the right to vote.

All of us in America have a duty to vote. I urge all Americans to show up for this election cycle on November 5th, to do their duty as Americans, to recognize in a free society we have a responsibility to participate in the process.

Citizens of every political viewpoint can be proud of this important law. This legislation reflects the judgments of a distinguished bipartisan commission. These measures were carefully considered and overwhelmingly adopted by the House and the Senate. Congress has made a vital contribution to the democratic process.

Now it's my honor to sign into law the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to the October 25 crash of a twin engine King Air aircraft in Eveleth, MN, which took the lives of Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota; his wife, Sheila; his daughter, Marcia Wellstone Markuson; campaign aides Will McLaughlin, Tom Lopic, and Mary McEvoy; pilot Richard Conroy; and copilot Michael Guess. H.R. 3295, approved October 29, was assigned Public Law No. 107-252. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Help America Vote Act of 2002

October 29, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 3295, the “Help America Vote Act of 2002.” This Act comports with the basic principles set forth in the final report of the bipartisan National Commission on Federal Election Reform, which I endorsed in July of 2001. Consequently, the Act appropriately respects the primacy of State and local governments in the administration of elections, while helping to ensure the integrity and efficiency of voting processes in Federal elections by providing Federal governmental support for that vital endeavor.

Section 203(a)(2) of the Act mandates that members of the congressional leadership submit to the President recommendations of persons to be appointed to the Election Assistance Commission—an entity, created by the Act, that will exercise significant governmental functions of an executive nature. The executive branch will not construe this provision as establishing the submission of congressional recommendations as a condition precedent to presidential nomination of persons for appointment to the Commission. Such a construction would impose impermissible constraints on presidential power under the Appointments Clause of the Constitution.

Section 203(a)(4) purports to require the President to make appointments to the Commission no later than 120 days after enactment of the new law. As with the provision regarding recommendations for appointment, this deadline unduly circumscribes the presidential appointment power. Moreover, this deadline is practically impossible to satisfy given the time required for the pre-nomination personnel process and confirmation by the full Senate. For these reasons, the executive branch shall interpret this provision as advisory.

Section 902(c) would authorize the Comptroller General, an officer of the legislative branch, to make determinations that would impose binding payment obligations upon entities outside that branch. Because this provision attempts to vest executive functions in the Comptroller General, it violates the

constitutional principle of separation of powers.

Finally, the executive branch shall implement section 101, concerning the provision of voting assistance, in a manner consistent with the equal protection requirements of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 29, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 3295, approved October 29, was assigned Public Law No. 107-252.

Proclamation 7615—National Family Caregivers Month, 2002

October 29, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

One of our most important responsibilities as citizens is to give back to our communities. Individuals who care for loved ones in their homes demonstrate the compassionate spirit of America. During National Family Caregivers Month, we honor these individuals who bring hope and comfort to their fellow citizens in need.

America’s family caregivers are vital to the strength of our communities. Through specialized care for family members with disabilities or those who are aging or chronically ill, millions of caregivers help their loved ones live in a comforting environment. As the size of our elderly population continues to grow, home care increasingly represents an important, dignified, and compassionate alternative for countless individuals.

To support and train families at all stages of caregiving, the Administration on Aging provides community-based assistance through the “National Family Caregiver Support Program.” This network of community service providers, faith-based organizations, tribal organizations, State and local agencies on aging, and hundreds of thousands of volunteers informs caregivers that they are not alone, and that help is always available