

Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, husband of Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao; Robert Wood “Woody” Northup, husband of Representative Anne M. Northup; Gov. Ernie Fletcher and Lt. Gov. Steve Pence of Kentucky; Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson; David Williams, president, and Richard L. Roeding, president pro tem, Kentucky State Senate; and Mercer Reynolds, national finance chairman, Bush-Cheney ’04, Inc.

Statement on House Passage of the “Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004”

February 26, 2004

I applaud the House for passing the “Unborn Victims of Violence Act” today by a strong bipartisan vote. We must continue to build a culture of life in our country, a compassionate society in which every child is born into a loving family and protected by law.

Pregnant women who have been harmed by violence, and their families, know that there are two victims—the mother and the unborn child—and both victims should be protected by Federal law.

I urge the Senate to pass this bill so that I can sign it into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 1997.

Proclamation 7757—Expanding the Scope of the National Emergency and Invocation of Emergency Authority Relating to the Regulation of the Anchorage and Movement of Vessels Into Cuban Territorial Waters

February 26, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, in order to expand the scope of the national emergency declared in Procla-

mation 6867 of March 1, 1996, based on the disturbance or threatened disturbance of the international relations of the United States caused by actions taken by the Cuban government, and in light of steps taken over the past year by the Cuban government to worsen the threat to United States international relations, and,

Whereas the United States has determined that Cuba is a state-sponsor of terrorism and it is subject to the restrictions of section 6(j)(1)(A) of the Export Administration Act of 1979, section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act;

Whereas the Cuban government has demonstrated a ready and reckless willingness to use excessive force, including deadly force, against U.S. citizens, in the ostensible enforcement of its sovereignty, including the February 1996 shoot-down of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace, resulting in the deaths of three American citizens and one other individual;

Whereas the Cuban government has demonstrated a ready and reckless willingness to use excessive force, including deadly force, against U.S. citizens and its own citizens, including on July 13, 1995, when persons in U.S.-registered vessels that entered into Cuban territorial waters suffered injury as a result of the reckless use of force against them by the Cuban military, and including the July 1994 sinking of an unarmed Cuban-registered vessel, resulting in the deaths of 41 Cuban citizens;

Whereas the Cuban government has impounded U.S.-registered vessels in Cuban ports and forced the owners, as a condition of release, to violate U.S. law by requiring payments to be made to the Cuban government;

Whereas the entry of any U.S.-registered vessels into Cuban territorial waters could result in injury to, or loss of life of, persons engaged in that conduct, due to the potential use of excessive force, including deadly force, against them by the Cuban military, and could threaten a disturbance of international relations;

Whereas the unauthorized entry of vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United