

13 governmental agencies involved with identity theft have a well-coordinated strategy to help the victims and to put those who commit the theft behind bars.

Again, I want to thank you all very much for helping us understand the issues but, more importantly, telling a story of the emotions and the feelings that you went through during this—difficult periods of your life.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:27 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Tax Legislation

May 10, 2006

The tax cuts we passed in recent years are working to fuel America's economic expansion. Our pro-growth policies have helped the economy create more than 5.2 million jobs since August of 2003, and last year, our economy grew faster than that of any other major industrialized nation. By extending key Capital Gains and Dividends tax relief, the House has taken an important step to continue to help hard-working Americans and to keep our economy strong and growing. I appreciate the House Leadership and Chairman Bill Thomas for their hard work.

I urge the Senate to vote swiftly so that I can sign this bill into law and put a stop to a massive tax hike that would be disastrous for small businesses, our economy, and all working Americans.

Executive Order 13402—Strengthening Federal Efforts To Protect Against Identity Theft

May 10, 2006

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, in order to strengthen efforts to protect against identity theft, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to use Federal resources effec-

tively to deter, prevent, detect, investigate, proceed against, and prosecute unlawful use by persons of the identifying information of other persons, including through:

(a) increased aggressive law enforcement actions designed to prevent, investigate, and prosecute identity theft crimes, recover the proceeds of such crimes, and ensure just and effective punishment of those who perpetrate identity theft;

(b) improved public outreach by the Federal Government to better (i) educate the public about identity theft and protective measures against identity theft, and (ii) address how the private sector can take appropriate steps to protect personal data and educate the public about identity theft; and

(c) increased safeguards that Federal departments, agencies, and instrumentalities can implement to better secure government-held personal data.

Sec. 2. Establishment of the Identity Theft Task Force.

(a) There is hereby established the Identity Theft Task Force.

(b) The Task Force shall consist exclusively of:

- (i) the Attorney General, who shall serve as Chairman of the Task Force;
- (ii) the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, who shall serve as Co-Chairman of the Task Force;
- (iii) the Secretary of the Treasury;
- (iv) the Secretary of Commerce;
- (v) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- (vi) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;
- (vii) the Secretary of Homeland Security;
- (viii) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (ix) the Commissioner of Social Security;
- (x) the following officers of the United States:

- (A) the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;
- (B) the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;
- (C) the Comptroller of the Currency;
- (D) the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision;