

Finally, I am pleased that this legislation commits additional critical funding for international family planning organizations and lifts the restrictions hampering their work that I have strongly opposed in the past.

**Message on the Observance of
Diwali, 2000**

October 25, 2000

Warm greetings to Indian Americans across our country as you observe the festival of Diwali.

This ancient and joyous holiday, with origins in the Hindu faith, reflects both the unity and the rich diversity of the people and culture of India. It is truly a “festival of lights,” marked by lighting candles and lamps, setting off firecrackers, and dressing in vibrant colors. During Diwali, Indians of all ages and backgrounds come together to celebrate life, the triumph of good over evil, and the hope for happiness and prosperity that we all share.

America has become home to men and women from countries across the globe, whose skills and perspective have enriched our culture, enhanced our economy, and broadened our vision of the world. Diwali presents all of us with an opportunity to reflect on the many ways the talents, history, and traditions of the Indian people have contributed to our national life and cultural heritage and to give thanks for the extraordinary diversity that is one of our nation’s greatest strengths.

Hillary and I extend best wishes to all for a wonderful celebration.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

**Executive Order 13172—
Amendment to Executive Order
13078, To Expand the Role of the
National Task Force on Employment
of Adults With Disabilities To
Include a Focus on Youth**

October 25, 2000

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, and in order to provide for improved access to employment and training for youth with disabilities, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13078 of March 13, 1998, is amended by adding to section 2 of that order the following new subsection to read as follows: “(h) To improve employment outcomes for persons with disabilities by addressing, among other things, the education, transition, employment, health and rehabilitation, and independent living issues affecting young people with disabilities, executive departments and agencies shall coordinate and cooperate with the Task Force to: (1) strengthen interagency research, demonstration, and training activities relating to young people with disabilities; (2) create a public awareness campaign focused on access to equal opportunity for young people with disabilities; (3) promote the views of young people with disabilities through collaboration with the Youth Councils authorized under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998; (4) increase access to and utilization of health insurance and health care for young people with disabilities through the formalization of the Federal Healthy and Ready to Work Interagency Council; (5) increase participation by young people with disabilities in post-secondary education and training programs; and (6) create a nationally representative Youth Advisory Council, to be funded and

chaired by the Department of Labor, to advise the Task Force in conducting these and other appropriate activities.”

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 25, 2000.

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NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on October 27.

**Executive Order 13173—
Interagency Task Force on the
Economic Development of the
Central San Joaquin Valley**

October 25, 2000

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to provide a more rapid and integrated Federal response to the economic development challenges of the Central San Joaquin Valley (Valley), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. (a) There is established the “Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Central San Joaquin Valley” (Task Force).

(b) The Task Force shall include the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Director of National Drug Control Policy, the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, or their designees, and such other senior executive branch officials as may be determined by the Task Force. The Chair of the Task Force shall rotate annually among the Secretaries of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, and Commerce in an order determined by those

agency heads. Administrative support shall be provided by the then-current chair.

(c) The purpose of the Task Force is to coordinate and improve existing Federal efforts for the Valley, in concert with locally led efforts, in order to increase the living standards and the overall economic performance of the Valley. Economic development efforts shall include consideration of the preservation or enhancement of the natural environment and natural resources of the Valley. Specifically, the Task Force shall:

- (1) analyze programs and policies of Task Force member agencies that relate to the Valley to determine what changes, modifications, and innovations should be considered, if any;
- (2) consider statistical and data analysis, research, and policy studies related to the Valley;
- (3) develop, recommend, and implement short-term and long-term options for promoting sustainable economic development;
- (4) consult and coordinate activities with State, tribal, and local governments, community leaders, Members of Congress, the private sector, and other interested parties, paying particular attention to maintaining existing authorities of the States, tribes, and local governments, and preserving their existing working relationships with other agencies, organizations, or individuals;
- (5) coordinate and collaborate on research and demonstration priorities of Task Force member agencies related to the Valley;
- (6) integrate Federal initiatives and programs into the design of sustainable economic development actions for the Valley; and
- (7) focus initial efforts on pilot communities for implementing a coordinated and expedited Federal response to local economic development and other needs.

(d) The Task Force shall issue an interim report to the President by January 15, 2001. The Task Force shall issue its first annual report to the President by September 15,