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| DOCUMENT NO. | FORM       | SUBJECT/TITLE                                                                            | PAGES | DATE       | RESTRICTION(S) |
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| 001          | Memorandum | Possible State of the Union Initiatives - To: POTUS - From: Garry Malphrus, Chris Bugbee | 3     | 01/25/2005 | P5;            |
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| 003          | Memorandum | Hate Crimes - To: POTUS - From: Karl Zinsmeister                                         | 2     | 05/02/2007 | P5;            |
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### COLLECTION TITLE:

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

### SERIES:

Von Der Heydt, Thomas (Tommy) - Bush Record Policy Memos

### FOLDER TITLE:

Crime Legacy: A Timeline (2001 - 2008) [2]

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### RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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DP

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 10, 2004

5-12-04  
THE PRESIDENT  
HAS SEEN

62065255  
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INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: MARGARET SPELLINGS  
FROM: DIANA SCHACHT  
GARRY MALPHRUS  
SUBJECT: CIVIL RIGHTS BRIEFING

Purpose

To update you on the basic principles and accomplishments of your Administration with respect to civil rights issues. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, and the 40th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Principles

You have committed your Administration to ensuring equal opportunity and equal rights for all.

Equal opportunity means that every person should have access to educational and economic opportunities. You have said that "education is the great civil rights issue of our time." You are advancing educational opportunity through the No Child Left Behind Act, which is working to close the achievement gap between minority students and their non-minority peers. You have increased Federal funding for disadvantaged students by 52 percent since 2001, and are increasing funding for minority serving institutions of higher education by 30 percent over four years. Also, you are creating economic opportunity through your Minority Homeownership initiative, which has a goal of creating 5.5 million new minority homeowners by the end of the decade. You are also improving Federal contracting opportunities for small businesses, expanding job training, and increasing access for people with disabilities in all aspects of American life.

Equal rights means that no person should suffer unfair discrimination by the government or others and that we should protect vulnerable populations. Your Administration is vigorously enforcing Federal civil rights laws. Yours is the first Administration to ban racial profiling in Federal law enforcement. Your Administration is increasing prosecutions for human trafficking, a modern form of slavery, and assisting the victims. Your Administration is prosecuting criminal civil rights violations overall at higher levels than the prior Administration. Moreover, you are ending discrimination against faith-based organizations by the Federal government, many of which have been deterred from accessing Federal funds.

## Discussion

### **I. Equal Opportunity**

#### *A. Educational Opportunity*

You have said that "education is the great civil rights issue of our time." And you have argued against the "soft bigotry of low expectations." To ensure that every child of every background starts life with an opportunity to succeed, you have supported:

##### *i. No Child Left Behind*

- The No Child Left Behind Act is working to close the achievement gap between minority students and their non-minority peers by requiring states to create strong standards for what every child should know and learn in reading and math.
- Your FY 2005 Budget represents a 49 percent increase for elementary and secondary education since FY 2001. It includes an additional \$1 billion for disadvantaged students, which is a 52 percent increase over FY 2001.
- Under NCLB, you increased funding by 53 percent since FY 2001 for programs to teach children from non-English speaking homes to read and to assist recent immigrant students.
- The 2003 National Assessment of Educational Progress results show significant student progress in mathematics in both the fourth and eighth grades since 2000. At the fourth grade, the percentage of students at or above the proficient level increased from 24 percent to 32 percent, and at the eighth grade, the increases are from 26 percent to 29 percent. The achievement gap in mathematics between white and African American students is closing for both fourth- and eighth-graders, and the gap between white and Hispanic students is closing for fourth-graders.
- According to a March 2004 study by the Council of Great City Schools, the achievement gap in both reading and math in urban schools between African Americans and whites, and Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites, is narrowing.

##### *ii. School Choice*

- You worked with Congress to include a school choice program for the District of Columbia, which will benefit approximately 1,700 disadvantaged children, in the FY 2004 Omnibus Appropriations bill.
- You have included funding in your budgets for a School Choice Incentive Program, which would provide funding to states and school districts interested in starting a school choice initiative.

##### *iii. Minority-Serving Institutions*

- You committed to increasing Federal funding for minority-serving institutions by 30 percent over four years, and your FY 2005 budget proposes to meet this goal (from \$299 million in FY 2001 to \$395 million in FY 2005).

iv. *Diversity in Education*

- You have said that institutions of higher education should reflect the racial, ethnic, and economic diversity of America, and have supported "affirmative access" to "open the doors of opportunity" to all Americans.
- However, you have opposed quotas and quota systems as divisive and unfair. You have said there are innovative and proven ways such as those used in Texas and Florida for colleges and universities to reflect the diversity of America in admissions without resorting to racial quotas.

B. *Economic Opportunity*

You have said we must work to "make sure that the notion of the American Dream extends into every single neighborhood around this country."

i. *Minority Homeownership*

- You are increasing homeownership and closing the gap between non-minority and minority homeowners. In June 2002, you announced an initiative, *America's Homeownership Challenge*, with a goal of creating 5.5 million new minority homeowners by the end of the decade through programs to assist low- and moderate-income families.
- Since you launched your initiative, more than 1.5 million minority families have become homeowners, and for the first time ever, more than half of minority households own their own home.
- You proposed and signed into law the American Dream Downpayment Fund, a \$200 million initiative that would provide an estimated 40,000 low-income families with downpayment funds.
- You proposed a \$2.54 billion, five-year Single-Family Housing Tax Credit to encourage developers to increase the supply of affordable homes.
- You called for increased funding for programs to help Americans avoid predatory lending, make more informed home purchases, and understand the lending process more clearly.

ii. *Small Business Contracting*

- Meeting your 2000 campaign commitment to "break down government contracts to smaller sizes to encourage entrepreneurship in all communities," the OMB Director in March 2002 developed a strategy for unbundling government contracts and improving Federal contracting opportunities for small businesses.
- Last year (FY 2003), almost \$4.3 billion – or more than 29 percent of all Small Business Administration loan dollars – went to minority borrowers. The number of loans to minority borrowers increased by 38 percent from FY 2002. The number of loans to African Americans increased by 61 percent; loans to Hispanic Americans increased by 39 percent; and loans to Asian Americans increased by 31 percent.
- Approximately 2.1 million entrepreneurs received business counseling and technical assistance through SBA programs in FY 2003.
- NOTE: The SBA Section 8(a) Program provides preferential Federal contracting benefits for Blacks, Hispanics, and other racial groups. The majority of Federal contracts for minority-owned businesses are awarded through this program. Some have challenged this program as unconstitutional; the Department of Justice has defended it in the courts.

iii. *Economic Opportunity for Low-Income Americans*

- You have pursued a number of other reforms to improve economic opportunity for low-income Americans, including low-income minorities, such as (1) expansion of the 10 percent tax bracket; (2) welfare reform; (3) guaranteed overtime; (4) reforms to increase the number of Americans receiving job training; and (5) increases to the number of Pell grants and the amount of the grants to make college more affordable.

iv. *New Freedom Initiative: Opportunity for People with Disabilities*

- You are expanding opportunities and access for people with disabilities so they integrate into all aspects of American life. Early in your Administration, you announced your New Freedom Initiative, a comprehensive plan to give people with disabilities increased access to new technologies for independent living, greater educational opportunities, and better access to the workplace and community life.

## II. **Equal Rights**

Your Administration is making certain that the laws are enforced fairly and equally for all individuals and is vigorously enforcing Federal civil rights laws.

i. *Racial Profiling*

- Yours is the first Administration to ban racial profiling in Federal law enforcement.
- You declared in your February 2001 Address Before a Joint Session of Congress that racial profiling is "wrong and we will end it in America." At your direction, the Attorney General issued new guidance barring Federal law enforcement from engaging in racial profiling. The standards are designed to ensure racial and ethnic stereotypes are never used to make investigative decisions, such as ordinary traffic stops, even where it might otherwise be lawful to do so. Officers may rely on race or ethnicity if a specific suspect description exists or for terrorist identification.

ii. *Police Misconduct*

- In your Administration, the Justice Department is working on a cooperative basis with law enforcement to address serious patterns or practices of civil rights violations by police departments and other state-run institutions. This approach achieves reform more effectively and faster than operating under a litigation-oriented, adversarial approach.
- During this Administration, the Department has reached agreements with police departments and other institutions to resolve 13 cases compared to two in the final three years of the previous Administration.

iii. *Post 9-11 Backlash*

- Since the events of 9-11, the Justice Department has investigated 556 allegations of bias-motivated crimes against individuals of or perceived to be of Middle Eastern origin.

To date, the Justice Department has prosecuted 18 defendants, all successfully. There have been approximately 125 state and local prosecutions. Moreover, the Justice Department has engaged in extensive outreach to impacted communities, holding more than 250 community meetings to date.

- Your Department of Education also conducted outreach after 9-11, producing anti-harassment resource packages for schools, translating civil rights materials into Arabic and other languages, and encouraging the leaders of America's schools, colleges, and universities to protect students from harassment and violence.

iv. *Criminal Civil Rights and Hate Crimes*

- Your Justice Department is prosecuting criminal civil rights violations at higher levels than the prior Administration (439 in the first three years compared to 413 in the last three years of prior Administration).
- During the 2000 campaign, your position regarding Federal hate crimes legislation was "all violent crime is hate crime and federal hate crimes laws should be fully enforced." You also said you "would support the Orrin Hatch version" of the legislation, which would have authorized Federal funding to assist local jurisdictions that lack resources to adequately prosecute bias-motivated crimes (although Senator Hatch may have abandoned this approach since). Currently, the Justice Department provides financial and technical assistance to help state and local authorities prevent and prosecute hate crimes.

v. *Classified Evidence in Immigration Cases*

- During the 2000 campaign, you expressed concern about the potentially inappropriate use of classified evidence or "secret evidence" in immigration proceedings, saying that while the "security of our country and our people is the foremost consideration," the use of such evidence "doesn't justify a disregard for fairness, dignity, or civil rights." Current law allows Federal authorities to use classified information in immigration proceedings, so as to prevent aliens who engage in or support terrorist or foreign intelligence activity from entering or remaining in the United States, without disclosing it to the foreign national.
- During this Administration, no new immigration cases using classified evidence have been brought in immigration court to remove a person from the United States. Even after the events of 9-11, classified evidence was used in only one case to deny admission to someone into the United States. At the start of this Administration, the government had nine ongoing immigration cases that involved the use of classified evidence.
- The Secretary of Homeland Security will soon issue guidelines providing that the Department will use classified information only when he personally determines that there are no alternatives reasonably available and that there is a compelling need for its use.

vi. *Human Trafficking*

- Prosecutions against those responsible for human trafficking, a modern form of slavery, have increased almost three-fold in your Administration (110 in your first three fiscal years compared to 43 in the last three fiscal years of the prior Administration).
- To protect victims, last year you announced at the United Nations General Assembly an initiative to spend \$50 million to support the work of organizations that are rescuing women and children from this exploitation. Under the special T-1 visa program administered by

DHS, certain trafficking victims are able to live and work in the United States for 3 years while their cases are pending.

- Your Administration announced a human trafficking public awareness campaign for local law enforcement in April, and the Justice Department will hold a national law enforcement training conference later this year.

*vii. Disability Rights*

- Your Administration continues to fully enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act, a law you have called "one of the most compassionate and successful civil rights laws in American history." Your Administration has focused on promoting compliance through alternatives to litigation such as mediation and providing businesses the information they need to comply with the law. For example, through a national effort named "Project Civic Access," designed to ensure that towns and cities are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities, the Justice Department has reached agreements with 70 governmental units nationwide.

*viii. Rights of Institutionalized Persons*

- Your Justice Department is actively protecting the rights of institutionalized persons, such as those in health care or correctional facilities. The number of investigations has increased during your Administration (34 in the first three years, compared to 20 in the last three years of the previous Administration).

*ix. Employment Discrimination*

- Your Justice Department has increased the number of investigations of employment discrimination regarding public employers over the prior Administration (161 in the first three years of this Administration, compared to 117 in the last three years of the prior Administration).

*x. Housing and Accommodations Rights*

- During your Administration, the Justice Department has increased the number of investigations of matters involving discrimination in housing, lending, and public accommodations over the prior Administration (465 in the first three years of this Administration, compared to 410 in the last three years of the prior Administration).

*xi. Religious Liberties*

- Your Justice Department is vigorously enforcing the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), which Congress passed in 2000 to require local governments to treat religious organizations on a comparable basis as non-religious organizations. Under the law, the Department has opened 16 investigations to date, with a 100 percent success record in resolving cases so far.
- The Department also has filed numerous *amicus* briefs defending religious groups' right to use public schools and public facilities on an equal basis as non-religious community groups.
- You signed an Executive Order in December 2002 to end discrimination against faith-based organizations by the Federal Government. Many of these organizations operate in minority neighborhoods and have been deterred from accessing Federal funds. Now groups as diverse as Tom Lewis's Fishing School and Milwaukee's Most Holy Redeemer Church are eligible to receive, or actually receive, Federal grants.

- You have created special offices in key Cabinet departments to help faith-based groups get access to government funding. Last year, over \$1.1 billion in discretionary grants went to faith-based groups. At HUD, grants to first-time faith-based recipients (many of which are in urban neighborhoods) doubled (to \$113 million).
- You have argued that faith-based organizations should be able to maintain their exemption under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to hire on a religious basis. Congress is deadlocked on the issue.

###

DP  
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FROM ORM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

62133453  
5-18-04  
THE PRESIDENT  
HAS SEEN

May 17, 2004

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: MARGARET SPELLINGS

FROM: DIANA SCHACHT  
GARRY MALPHRUS

SUBJECT: CRIME BRIEFING

Purpose

To update you on key accomplishments of your Administration with respect to crime issues, and on the status of your anti-crime programs and initiatives.

Message

My administration is making America safer by fighting crime at home, targeting gun violence, and protecting the victims of crime – especially children.

General Statistics

You are keeping your commitment to fighting crime at home.

- **Violent crime is down 21 percent** (2001-2002, compared to 1999-2000). According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), it is now at its lowest point in the past 30 years. FBI data on crime reporting to police generally shows similar trends in reduced crime but on a lesser scale.
- Property crime is down 13 percent during this Administration, according to NCVS.
- NOTE: The murder rate, after declining significantly in the 1990s, has held relatively constant in this Administration, increasing from 5.5 to 5.6 (per 100,000 people) from 2000 to 2002.

Specific Issues

I. Supporting Responsible Gun Ownership

A. Prosecuting Criminals Who Use Guns

- Federal gun prosecutions have increased 68 percent in the past three years (FY 2000 to FY 2003) under Project Safe Neighborhoods, your comprehensive strategy to vigorously enforce existing gun laws and prevent gun violence. All U.S. Attorneys have implemented your plan

to partner with state and local officials to prosecute gun offenders in Federal or state court, according to where prosecutors can be most effective.

- Last year (FY 2003), the Justice Department prosecuted over 13,000 offenders for Federal firearms crimes, the highest figure on record for a single year and a record increase of almost 23 percent over FY 2002.
- These offenders are serving jail time. Approximately 72 percent of those charged with Federal firearms crimes in FY 2003 were sentenced to more than 3 years in prison for convictions on firearms charges or other offenses.
- Your Administration has devoted over \$1 billion to Project Safe Neighborhoods since FY 2001. The funds have been used to hire hundreds of new Federal and state prosecutors, provide training, conduct educational campaigns, and involve local communities in a coordinated strategy to stop and prevent the criminal misuse of guns.
- There were 130,000 fewer victims of crime involving guns during the first two years of this Administration (2001-2002) than in 1999-2000.
- Your position regarding the assault weapons ban, which expires in September 2004, has been that you "support the current law, and ... support reauthorization of the current law." You have supported a ten-year extension of the current ban but without expanding the coverage to additional firearms. It is not clear whether Congress will renew the ban this year. The Senate voted earlier this year to reauthorize the ban but a majority of the House opposes reauthorizing the ban.

*B. Protecting the Rights of Gun Owners*

- You have strongly supported the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens to own firearms. Your Administration views the Second Amendment as an individual right of Americans, not a collective right of the militia. Your Attorney General has taken the position and filed briefs in the Federal courts saying that the Second Amendment "protects the right of individuals, including those not then actually a member of the militia or engaged in active military service or training, to privately possess and bear their own arms."
- You have supported legislation that would prohibit a firearms manufacturer or seller from being held liable for the criminal or unlawful misuse of that product by others. Frivolous litigation against firearms manufacturers and sellers could cost the jobs of thousands of workers in the industry. The bill has passed the House and was considered in the Senate recently, but Senate supporters voted down the bill after it was amended with gun restrictions including the assault weapons ban.
- Your Administration is reducing the time that the Federal government maintains records of approved gun transactions as part of instant background checks from 90 days to 24 hours. Your Administration supported this change within the FY 2004 appropriations bill. The change, which will become effective in July, is strongly supported by gun advocates who believe that unnecessarily maintaining records of legal gun purchases is tantamount to maintaining a gun registry.

*C. Preventing Crime with Guns*

- You have strongly supported the use of "instant background checks when guns are sold to make sure guns do not get into the hands of people who shouldn't have them," and your Administration is improving the accuracy and reliability of the National Instant Background Check System (NICS), which conducts the checks.

- The rate for providing an immediate decision for a background check has increased from 71 to 91 percent of inquiries during your Administration.
- Since FY 2001, your Justice Department has dedicated over \$160 million in grants to help states update and automate their criminal records for the system. You are seeking to essentially double the funding for these grants in FY 2005 to \$61 million (from \$32.6 appropriated in FY 2004).
- Under established law, the fact that someone is suspected of being a member of a terrorist organization is not a basis in itself to prohibit him from purchasing a firearm. The Justice Department recently instituted a policy requiring the NICS system to delay the sale of a firearm to someone who is on a terrorist watch list in order to notify the relevant FBI field office and allow the office to determine whether it has information that would cause the sale to be denied.
- During the Washington sniper shootings in late 2002, some argued that the Federal government should require that the ballistics images or "fingerprints" of all guns sold be maintained to help trace a bullet back to the gun that fired it. Currently, the ATF has a program to help states collect ballistic images of guns used in crime, but the program does not include all guns sold. At your direction, the Justice Department hired the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive review of all the scientific and technical issues surrounding ballistics imaging, to help you evaluate whether a national ballistics system for all guns sold is feasible and warranted. The study will be completed in December 2005.

*D. Promoting Gun Safety: Project ChildSafe*

- Your Justice Department is distributing free child safety gun locks and safety kits nationwide through Project ChildSafe. This is based on your 2000 campaign promise "to ensure safety locks are available for every handgun" as a practical way for government to help families improve safety in their homes. Congress has provided the Justice Department sufficient funding for about half the 65 million locks to date and is expected to provide the remaining funds in the next two years.

II. Protecting Children and Other Vulnerable Victims

You have said that there is "a fundamental responsibility of public officials at every level of government to do everything we can to protect the most vulnerable citizens from dangerous offenders who prey on them."

*A. AMBER Alert*

- You instituted a national initiative to expand and coordinate the AMBER Alert system, which is a program that uses local broadcast systems to notify the public about child abductions. You later signed legislation to improve the system.
- At your direction, the Administration created the AMBER Alert Coordinator at the Justice Department, developed recommended national guidelines for issuing AMBER Alerts, and has devoted over \$16 million to help states and localities develop and coordinate plans.
- Since your announcement in October 2002, the number of state-wide plans has increased from 23 to all 48 states in the continental United States. During that time, AMBER Alerts have been credited with helping recover approximately 100 additional children.

- At your direction, your Administration also developed "Personal Safety For Children: A Guide For Parents," a guidebook that provides tips on preventing child abductions. The Department of Education has distributed 2.4 million copies to date in English and Spanish.

*B. Child Pornography and Obscenity*

- Federal prosecutions for child pornography and exploitation have increased 41 percent in the past three years (from 893 cases in FY 2000 to 1,261 cases in FY 2003).
- With approval of your FY 2005 Budget, funding for Justice Department programs to fight child pornography and adult obscenity will have doubled to \$42 million (from \$21 million in FY 2001). These programs include the FBI Innocent Images program, which investigates sexual predators that use the Internet, and the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Forces, which provide assistance to state and local law enforcement to fight these crimes. Since 2001, the number of Innocent Images programs has increased from 16 to 27, and the number of ICAC Task Forces has increased from 30 to 39.
- The Department of Homeland Security created Operation Predator in July 2003 to marshal its resources and efforts against child predators, including pedophiles, human traffickers, and international sex tourists. A total of more than 2,500 individuals have been arrested to date under the program, including non-citizens whose crimes render them deportable.
- You signed into law the PROTECT Act last year, which strengthened child pornography laws and gave law enforcement additional tools to prevent, investigate, and prosecute violent crimes against children.
- During your Administration, there have been 25 persons convicted of adult obscenity charges, and there are approximately 50 ongoing obscenity investigations. Adult obscenity was essentially ignored during the prior Administration.

*C. Domestic Violence*

- You have said that "domestic violence betrays the most basic duties of life" and "is a crime that must be confronted by individuals, by communities and by government."
- You have secured historic levels of funding for Violence Against Women programs at the Justice Department. These programs provide state and local communities with resources and tools to prosecute offenders for domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and assist the victims of these crimes. In 2002, you requested and received an increase of approximately \$100 million in Violence Against Women funding to a total of \$390 million, and have continued to provide similar levels of funding since.
- You announced a new initiative in October 2003 to help local communities provide victims of domestic violence comprehensive services under one roof through Family Justice Centers. Your Justice Department is providing \$20 million in grants with FY 2004 funds to help establish and support Family Justice Centers in 12 communities. At the time, you also announced an initiative to provide \$5 million in grants in FY 2004 to community and faith-based organizations to help children who witness domestic violence.
- Federal prosecutions for crimes of violence against women, which include offenses such as possession of a firearm while subject to a protection order and interstate domestic violence, have increased 53 percent in the past two years (from 208 in FY 2001 to 319 in FY 2003).

*D. Anti-Trafficking*

- In April 2004, your Administration launched an anti-trafficking initiative in three pilot cities: Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Phoenix. Local police officers, emergency room personnel, health clinic staff, and service providers will be trained to spot and care for victims. In addition, victims will be encouraged to help prosecute their abusers.
- You have proposed over \$150 million over two years to combat worldwide trafficking in persons, predominantly women and children forced into sexual slavery. In addition, the Justice Department is aggressively investigating and prosecuting human trafficking. In FY 2001 to FY 2003, the Justice Department opened 210 new investigations, which is more than double the number opened in the previous three fiscal years. In FY 2001 to FY 2003, the department prosecuted 110 traffickers, which is nearly a three-fold increase compared to the previous fiscal years.

*E. School Violence*

- Violence in schools is declining. Serious violent crimes against kids at school decreased from 3.4 million incidents in 1992 to 2.0 million in 2001.
- The Department of Education provides funding for violence and drug prevention activities in schools across America through the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program. You have requested \$716 million in your FY 2005 budget for both state grants and national initiatives under this program, an increase of \$72 million over FY 2001.
- The Justice Department secures about \$24 million per year for a program within Project Safe Neighborhoods called Project Sentry. This program establishes partnerships between Federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors to improve school safety by prosecuting juveniles who bring guns to schools or use them illegally, or the adult suppliers.

*F. Crime Victims*

- You endorsed the Crime Victims Rights Constitutional Amendment authored by Senators Kyl and Feinstein. The amendment would provide victims of violent crime specific rights protected under the Constitution, such as the right to timely notice of the release or escape of the accused and the right to be heard at public proceedings such as the defendant's sentencing.
- Because the amendment does not have sufficient support for passage, the Senate recently passed legislation, now pending in the House, to provide additional protections in Federal law, such as the right to timely notice of the offender's release or escape.
- Your Justice Department is taking action to provide victims of Federal crimes a greater voice in the criminal justice process, including requiring Federal prosecutors to inform victims of important stages in the criminal process, such the date of sentencing and release, through the Department's Victim Notification System.

*G. Promoting a Culture of Life*

- In April 2004, you signed into law the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which enhances protections for unborn children. The Act recognizes unborn children who are injured or killed during the commission of a Federal crime as crime victims themselves. Therefore, causing death or bodily injury to an unborn child while committing any of 68 Federal offenses, is now treated as a separate Federal offense.

### III. Fighting Corporate Fraud

- Your Corporate Fraud Task Force is targeting fraudulent businesses and helping restore investor confidence. Over 700 violators have been charged and over 300 convicted since the inception of the Task Force.
- Since 2001, you have more than doubled the budget for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), providing more than 946 new accountants, attorneys, and examiners to protect investors, root out fraud, and strengthen corporate governance. Your FY 2005 Budget provides an \$81 million increase over FY 2004 for the SEC. Last year (FY 2004), you secured an increase of \$10 million for corporate fraud investigations at the Justice Department.

### IV. Reducing Drug Use

- You are pursuing a focused strategy to cut the demand for drugs at home, treat more addicts who seek help, and interdict supplies of drugs abroad.
- Youth drug use declined 11 percent between 2001 and 2003, exceeding your goal of 10 percent over two years, according to the Monitoring the Future annual survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders. This means that 400,000 fewer young people use drugs today than in 2001.
- In the State of the Union address this year, you proposed \$25 million – a \$23 million increase – to help schools that want to develop and carry out student drug testing programs. Random drug testing is a prevention tool to give young people a reason not to initiate drug use.
- Last year, you proposed your Access to Recovery initiative, a three-year, \$600 million program to provide drug treatment to individuals through vouchers at effective treatment organizations, including faith-based and community organizations. Congress provided \$100 million in FY 2004, and you are seeking \$200 million in FY 2005.
- You are proposing an additional 100 Drug Enforcement Administration agents in your FY 2005 Budget to restore drug agent staffing levels that were reduced in the aftermath of 9-11 due to the FBI's focus on terrorism.
- Your 2005 Budget includes \$2.6 billion for drug interdiction, an increase of 4.5 percent over 2004.
- You have called on America's major sports leagues and athletes to end the use of performance-enhancing drugs like steroids, encouraging them to implement stringent drug policies to set a healthier and more positive example for America's young people.

### V. Supporting State and Local Crime-Fighting

The vast majority of crime in the United States (about 94 percent of felonies and virtually all misdemeanors) is addressed on the local and state level. Often the Federal government can be most effective by providing resources and tools to state and local authorities to help them meet their unique needs, such as through Justice Assistance Grants and your DNA Initiative.

#### A. DNA Initiative

- Your DNA Initiative is a comprehensive proposal to expand the use of DNA to solve crime and protect the innocent from wrongful prosecution in the criminal justice system.

- The plan calls for spending over \$1 billion over five years in Federal funds to eliminate existing backlogs of unanalyzed DNA samples for the most serious violent offenses – rapes, murders and kidnappings, while strengthening crime laboratory capacity so as to help prevent future backlogs. It will also train law enforcement and other professionals on the use of DNA, and promote the use of DNA to identify missing persons. The Administration received \$157 million in FY 2004 for the initiative and is seeking \$236 million in FY 2005 (\$93 million for backlog reduction, \$92 million to strengthen crime labs, \$24 million for research and development, \$18 million for training, \$5 million for post-conviction testing, and \$4 million to identify missing persons).
- The House has passed legislation specifically authorizing components of your DNA initiative; the bill is pending in the Senate. The Justice Department is working to modify unrelated provisions of the bill primarily relating to death penalty proceedings to which it objects.

*B. Neighborhood Watch*

- Your Administration, in cooperation with law enforcement partners, has added over 9,300 new or revitalized Neighborhood Watch programs across the country since 2002, when efforts to expand Neighborhood Watch were announced as part of your USA Freedom Corps call to volunteer service and homeland preparedness.

*C. COPS and Local Law Enforcement Grants*

- A signature initiative of the prior Administration was to put 100,000 police officers on the streets through the COPS program. The original goal has been more than met; to date, funding has been provided to hire over 118,000 officers.
- Rather than proposing additional funding for COPS hiring, you have supported giving law enforcement greater flexibility to address local priorities, such as equipment, training, or staffing. You have proposed to consolidate COPS and other general purpose law enforcement grant programs to give law enforcement greater flexibility, although at reduced levels of funding.
- You have proposed significant Federal funding for terrorism through the Department of Homeland Security "first responders" program, including \$500 million expressly for state and local law enforcement terrorism preparedness.

*VI. Prisoners*

- In your State of the Union address this year, you proposed a four-year, \$300 million Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative to help inmates find work when they return to their communities. Successful reentry reduces recidivism, thereby preventing future crime, and reduces the societal costs of reincarceration.
- You signed into law the Prison Rape Reduction Act, which authorized grants to states and established a Commission to recommend national standards on reducing and preventing rape in jails and prisons in America.

#### VII. Sentencing

- The Federal Sentencing Guidelines are based on the general principle that offenders with similar records who commit similar crimes should receive comparable prison sentences, and they provide a limited range in which Federal judges should generally sentence defendants. The PROTECT Act, which you signed into law in April 2003, responded to concerns about disparity in sentencing by lessening the standard of review on appeal for all sentences that judges impose outside the range established in the Sentencing Guidelines. The Act also limited the ability of Federal judges to sentence certain child offenders outside the Guidelines range.
- The Attorney General issued guidelines (called the Ashcroft Memo) to all U.S. Attorneys in July 2003 requiring them to charge the most serious, readily-provable offenses in Federal cases (with certain limited exceptions such as cooperation from the defendant). It essentially restated the policy of Attorney General Thornburgh and replaced guidance from Attorney General Reno that had been viewed as granting prosecutors significant discretion on charging decisions.
- Mandatory minimum sentences have been controversial for many years with critics who argue that too many first-time, non-violent drug offenders, who are often minorities, receive these sentences.
- In 1994, Congress created a "safety valve" to exclude certain non-violent, low-level drug offenders from mandatory minimum sentences if they truthfully disclose information and evidence about their case to the government. About 36 percent of all drug offenders facing mandatory minimums received the benefit of the safety valve adjustment in 2001. Of those who received the adjustment, about 20 percent were Black and about 58 percent were Hispanic.
- You have not proposed further changes to mandatory minimum sentences during your Administration. You have supported tough but fair punishment for offenders.

#### VIII. Enforcing the Death Penalty

- You have supported the death penalty for heinous crimes, saying that if the death penalty "is certain, just, and fair, it will deter crime." You have also said that "any time we're preparing to carry out the death penalty, we have a solemn obligation to make sure the case has been handled in full accordance with all guarantees of our Constitution."
- In Federal cases during your Administration, there have been ten death sentences imposed and three executions.

## CRIME ISSUES SUMMARY

5-18-04  
THE PRESIDENT  
HAS SPOKE

You are keeping your commitment to *make America safer by:*

### Fighting crime at home:

- **Violent crime is down 21 percent** (2001-2002 compared to 1999-2000); at a 30 year low.
- Property crime is down 13 percent during this Administration.

### Targeting gun violence:

- Federal gun prosecutions have increased 68 percent in the past three years; in FY 2003 the Justice Department prosecuted over 13,000 offenders for firearms crimes.

### Protecting Rights of Lawful Gun owners:

- Viewing the Second Amendment as an individual right of Americans, not a collective right of the militia.
- Reducing the time the Federal government maintains records of approved gun transactions as part of instant background checks from 90 days to 24 hours (effective in July).

### Protecting children and other vulnerable victims:

- Stopping child abduction; Number of states with state-wide AMBER Alert plans up from 23 to 48.
- Federal prosecutions for child pornography and exploitation have increased 41 percent in the past three years (from 893 cases in FY 2000 to 1,261 cases in FY 2003).
- With approval of your FY 2005 Budget, funding for programs to fight child pornography and adult obscenity will have doubled (from \$21 million in FY 2001 to \$42 million).
- Funding for violence against women programs has been at historic levels during your administration (between \$385 and \$390 million a year, up from \$290 million).
- Endorsed a Constitutional Amendment giving victims of violent crime a greater voice in the criminal justice process.

### Fighting Drug Use:

- Reducing drug abuse by young people (400,000 fewer young people use drugs today than in 2001).
- Expanding drug testing (proposing \$23 million in new funds for a \$25 million total).
- Providing drug treatment programs (a three-year, \$600 million program using vouchers).

### Fighting White Collar Crime:

- Cracking down on corporate fraud and helping restore investor confidence (700 violators charged; 300 convicted since your Task Force was created).

### Improving the Criminal Justice System:

- Expanding the use of DNA to solve and prosecute crime and protect the innocent throughout the criminal justice system (\$1 billion over five years).
- Supporting prisoner reentry programs (four-year, \$300 million initiative), which help to prevent recidivism.

###

## **Fact Sheet: Operation Predator**

July 7, 2004

Each year, millions of children fall prey to sexual predators. Experts estimate that one-in-five girls and one-in-ten boys in the United States are sexually exploited before they reach adulthood. These young victims are left with permanent psychological, physical, and emotional scars. That tragedy is compounded by the fact that child prostitution, human trafficking, child pornography, and international sex tourism now generate billions of dollars a year worldwide.

Seeking to reverse this trend and protect children worldwide, the Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) developed Operation Predator, an initiative to identify, investigate, and arrest child predators. Officially launched by Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge in July 2003, Operation Predator draws on ICE's unique investigative and enforcement authorities to safeguard children from foreign national pedophiles, human traffickers, international sex tourists, and other predatory criminals.

Coordinated nationally and internationally through ICE's headquarters, Operation Predator brings together an array of ICE disciplines and resources to target these child sexual abusers. As part of the effort:

- ICE established a single web portal to access all publicly available state Megan's Law databases.
- ICE created a National Child Victim Identification System in partnership with NCMEC, the FBI, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Secret Service, the Department of Justice, the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces and other agencies.
- ICE agents stationed internationally are working with foreign governments and their foreign law enforcement counterparts to enhance coordination and cooperation on crimes that cross borders.
- ICE is working with INTERPOL to enhance foreign government intelligence on criminal child predators.

### **RESULTS**

In the last year, ICE has arrested more than 3,200 child predators nationwide. These individuals have committed a wide range of acts of child sex exploitation.

#### **Foreign National Child Predators**

More than half of the arrests made as part of Operation Predator have been arrests of foreign national sex offenders whose crimes make them removable from the United States. To date, more than 450 of these predators have been deported. Their crimes include a Los Angeles man who repeatedly molested his own daughter and an Austrian-national soccer coach convicted of repeatedly fondling a mentally impaired minor.

#### **International Child Sex Tourists**

Working cooperatively with foreign governments through ICE's attach offices worldwide, ICE agents made the first six arrests under the new child sex tourism provisions of the PROTECT Act. The first of those arrested, Michael Lewis Clark, 70, was sentenced in June 2004 to 97 months in jail.

#### **Human Smuggling & Trafficking of Children**

The criminal networks engaged in human smuggling and trafficking have become more violent and more profit-driven than ever before. At the same time, some of their victims are getting younger and younger. In one case, a predator tried to purchase nine-to-eleven year old girls from Mexico. ICE agents arrested the individual when he traveled to Arizona to have sex with the girls.

#### **Internet Child Pornography**

Drawing on ICE's cyber crime investigative expertise, ICE is tackling the crimes that cross the nation's virtual borders. In one major investigation, ICE agents have arrested more than 100 individuals for trading, buying, and distributing child pornography online. Acting on ICE leads from the investigation, law enforcement officials in Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Scotland have arrested an additional 500 individuals. Additionally,

through the National Child Victim Identification System, more than 1,230 children have been identified in pornographic images.

### **PROTECTING CHILDREN WORLDWIDE**

Several U.S. laws safeguard youth from sexual predators, including the Mann Act, the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Act of 1994, and the PROTECT Act of 2003. For example, federal law bars U.S. residents from engaging in sexual or pornographic activities anywhere in the world with a child under 18. ICE is working with law enforcement agencies and advocacy groups around the globe to investigate crimes of this nature. Those convicted in the U.S. face significant penalties:

- Manufacture, distribution, possession of child pornography: maximums of 30, 20 or 10 years in prison, respectively. Manufacture also carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years.
- Child sex tourist, child sex tour operator, or participant in these crimes: maximum 30 years in prison
- Sex trafficking of children for prostitution: maximum life sentence

In addition, lawful immigrants and illegal aliens who are convicted of crimes in the United States are subject to removal proceedings, which may ultimately lead to their removal from the United States.

### **OPERATION PREDATOR PARTNERS**

As part of our international awareness campaign to alert families to the potential dangers of child predators, ICE works closely with a number of agencies and organizations to educate the public. Such cooperation is crucial to the success of this initiative, since child predator investigations often cross jurisdictional boundaries and require specialized assistance to assist victims.

### **YOU CAN HELP: REPORT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN**

Report suspicious activity to ICE by telephone or email: 1-866-DHS-2ICE or [Operation.Predator@dhs.gov](mailto:Operation.Predator@dhs.gov)

Report suspected child sexual exploitation to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children: 1-800-843-5678 or [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com)

###

## **President Bush Signs Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act**

Remarks by the President at Signing of Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act  
Roosevelt Room

July 15, 2004

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for coming. Welcome to the White House. Thanks for coming. (Laughter.) Welcome to the White House. (Laughter.)

We're taking an important step today to combat the problem of identity theft, one of the fastest growing financial crimes in our nation. Last year alone, nearly 10 million Americans had their identities stolen by criminals who rob them and the nation's businesses of nearly \$50 billion through fraudulent transactions. The bill I'm about to sign sends a clear message that a person who violates another's financial privacy will be punished.

The Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act also prescribes prison sentences for those who use identity theft to commit other crimes, including terrorism. It reflects our government's resolve to answer serious offenses with serious penalties.

I appreciate the members of my administration who worked on this important piece of legislation, particularly Cabinet members John Snow and John Ashcroft. I appreciate the members of the Congress who worked hard on this legislation: Senator Orrin Hatch and Senator Jon Kyl, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and members of the House, Chairman, Senator Jim Sensenbrenner, and John Carter from the great state of Texas. I want to thank the other members of Congress who are here, members of both political parties. Thank you for coming. I thank those who are on their staffs who have worked hard.

The crime of identity theft undermines the basic trust on which our economy depends. When a person takes out an insurance policy, or makes an online purchase, or opens a savings account, he or she must have confidence that personal financial information will be protected and treated with care. Identity theft harms not only its direct victims, but also many businesses and customers whose confidence is shaken. Like other forms of stealing, identity theft leaves the victim poor and feeling terribly violated.

But the losses are not measured only in dollars. An identity theft -- thief can steal the victim's financial reputation. Running up bills on credit card accounts that the victim never knew existed, the criminal can quickly damage a person's lifelong efforts to build and maintain a good credit rating. Repairing the damage can take months or years.

Government has a responsibility to protect citizens from these crimes and the grief and hassle they cause. It's a solemn responsibility of our government. I want to thank the members of Congress for recognizing that responsibility.

This good law is part of a broader effort we've waged in recent years. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the FBI, and Secret Service are working with local and state officials to crack down on the criminal networks that are responsible for much of the identity theft that occurs in this nation. The Federal Trade Commission is training local law enforcement in the detection of identity theft. The Commission has set up the ID Theft Data Clearinghouse, which keeps track of complaints across the country, and provides those records to prosecutors seeking to take down organized rings.

Last December, I signed the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, which established a national system of fraud detection so that identity thieves can be stopped before they run up tens of thousands of dollars in illegal purchases. Thanks to this law, victims can make one phone call to alert all three major credit rating agencies to report the crime and to protect their credit ratings.

The law I sign today will dramatically strengthen the fight against identity theft and fraud. Prosecutors across the country report that sentences for these crimes do not reflect the damage done to the victim. Too often, those convicted have been sentenced to little or no time in prison. This changes today. This new law establishes in the federal criminal court the offense of aggravated identity theft. And someone convicted of that crime can expect to go to jail for stealing a person's good name. These punishments will come on top of any punishment for crimes that

proceed from identity theft. For example, when someone is convicted of mail fraud in a case involving stolen personal information, judges will now impose two sentences, one for mail fraud, and one for aggravated identity theft. Those convicted of aggravated identity theft must serve an additional mandatory two-year prison term. Someone convicted of aggravated identity theft, such as using a false passport in connection with a terrorism case, would receive an additional prison sentence of five years. In addition, judges will not be allowed to let those convicted of aggravated identity theft serve their sentence on probation.

This law also raises the standard of conduct for people who have access to personal records through their work at banks, government agencies, insurance companies, and other storehouses of financial data. The law directs the United States Sentencing Commission to make sure those convicted of abusing and stealing from their customers serve a sentence equal to their crimes.

What I'm telling you is this is a good law. And I appreciate you working hard to see to it that it made it to my desk. Because of this act of Congress I sign today, the guilty will be certain to be punished. That's good for our consumers, it's good for our economy, and it's good for the cause of justice.

Welcome to the White House. (Applause.)

(The bill is signed.)

###

## **President Announces Initiatives to Combat Human Trafficking**

Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel  
Tampa, Florida

July 16, 2004

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks a lot, John, for your service and your kind introduction. It's always good to be with Jeb. (Laughter.) He's a great brother and a fine governor. (Applause.) And I know my daughter, Barbara, who is traveling with me today, is proud of her Uncle Jeb. Thanks for coming, Barbara. We're glad you're here. (Applause.)

I appreciate you inviting me to this important conference. Human trafficking is one of the worst offenses against human dignity. Our nation is determined to fight that crime abroad and at home. And that's what we're here to talk about today. I am especially pleased that Jeb has today signed into law a bill making the sexual trafficking of minors a felony in the state of Florida. I appreciate his leadership. (Applause.)

I want to thank Claude Allen, the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for joining us today. Hey, Claude. Thank you for coming. (Applause.)

Paula Dobriansky, who is the Under Secretary of the Department of State, thank you, Paula, for your dedicated service. (Applause.)

Asa Hutchinson is the Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Thanks -- (applause).

In order to make sure the federal laws we're going to discuss are enforced, you've got to have good, strong U.S. attorneys around the United States. Paul Perez is a strong U.S. Attorney here in Tampa. Paul, thank you for being here. I appreciate your coming. (Applause.)

I want to thank all the state and local folks who are here, the local officials and the local law enforcement officials. I appreciate the faith-based and community organizations who are here. Thanks for your compassion and your love.

I met Lawn Pham today when I got to the airport. Where are you, Lawn? Oh, there she is. You'd have thought you'd have got a better seat than that. But there she is. (Laughter.)

The reason why Lawn came out to greet me at Air Force One is she volunteers five days a week at Catholic Charities. She is a soldier in the Army of Compassion. She is a reminder that the greatest strength of this country is the heart and souls of our fellow citizens, people who are willing to help people who hurt. Lawn is such an example. She is involved with the rescuing of innocent victims that have been brought here and have been harmed.

You know, the great strength of America is the fact that we've got millions of our fellow citizens who heed a call to love their neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves. And Lawn is such a person. (Applause.)

I am honored to be with the courageous men and women who are serving on the front lines in the fight against human trafficking. You've got a tough job, but it's a necessary job. You're hunting down the traffickers, you're serving justice by putting them behind bars, you're liberating captives, and you're helping them recover from years of abuse and trauma. The lives of tens of thousands of innocent women and children depend on your compassion, they depend upon your determination, and they depend upon your daily efforts to rescue them from misery and servitude. You are in a fight against evil, and the American people are grateful for your dedication and service. (Applause.)

Human life is the gift of our Creator -- and it should never be for sale. (Applause.) It takes a special kind of depravity to exploit and hurt the most vulnerable members of society. Human traffickers rob children of their innocence, they expose them to the worst of life before they have seen much of life. Traffickers tear families apart. They treat their victims as nothing more than goods and commodities for sale to the highest bidder.

Worldwide, at least 600,000 to 800,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders each year. Of those, it is believed that more than 80 percent are women and girls, and that 70 percent of them were forced into sexual servitude. The United Nations believes that the trafficking of human beings is now the third largest source of money for organized crime, after arms and drugs. We've got a problem; we need to do something about it. (Applause.)

The American government has a particular duty, because human trafficking is an affront to the defining promise of our country. People come to America hoping for a better life. And it is a terrible tragedy when anyone comes here, only to be forced into a sweatshop, domestic servitude, pornography or prostitution. It is estimated that between 14,500 and 17,500 victims of trafficking cross our borders every year. U.S. law enforcement has documented cases of Latvian girls trafficked into sexual slavery in Chicago, or Ukrainian girls trafficked in Los Angeles, and Maryland, or Thai, Korean, Malaysian and Vietnamese girls trafficked in Georgia, or and Mexican girls trafficked in California, New Jersey and here in Florida. Many of the victims are teenagers, some as young as 12 years old. Many victims are beaten. Some are killed. Others die spiritual and emotional deaths, convinced after years of abuse that their lives have no worth. This trade in human beings brings suffering to the innocent and shame to our country, and we will lead the fight against it. (Applause.)

Last year, at the United Nations, I called on other governments to pass laws making such abuse a crime -- and many have risen to the challenge. In the past year, 24 nations have enacted new laws to combat trade in human lives. Thirty-two are now in the process of drafting or passing such laws. As a result of these efforts, last year nearly 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide, 2,800 have been convicted.

America is actively helping nations that are willing to engage in this fight. Since taking office, my administration has provided more than \$295 million to support anti-trafficking programs in more than 120 countries. (Applause.) We're taking the lead. We are helping other governments to develop laws to combat abuse, to create special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases and rescue victims, build emergency shelters, and develop long-term rehabilitation and vocational training programs.

At the U.N. last year, I pledged \$50 million to support these efforts in 2004. Today, the Department of State as announced it has identified the final \$25 million to meet that pledge -- (applause) -- funds that will support anti-trafficking programs in Brazil and Cambodia and India and Indonesia and Mexico, Moldova, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. Every nation that fights human trafficking has a friend in the United States. And it's important for them to know that.

America is also confronting nations that profit from or tolerate human trafficking. We are helping nations and we are confronting nations. Those countries face potential sanctions that include the loss of U.S. military and economic assistance, as well as the loss of support from the World Bank and the IMF. This approach is yielding results.

Last year, after the Department of State released its 2003 Trafficking in Persons Report, 10 nations avoided sanctions by moving quickly to pass new anti-trafficking legislation, to train police officers. They launched domestic information campaigns, and established victim protection programs. This year, we have created a "Special Watch List" of 42 problem countries that require scrutiny. Every nation that is complicit in human trafficking can know that the United States government is watching and there will be consequences if they don't act.

As we fight the trade in human beings abroad, we have also launched an unprecedented domestic effort to deal with this problem at home. Our approach combines aggressive law enforcement action -- that means putting people in jail -- with compassionate outreach to the victims. (Applause.) Over the past three years, we have more than doubled the number of new trafficking investigations underway. Last August, for example, a Federal District Court in New Jersey sentenced two women to 17-and-a-half years in prison -- the maximum time allowable -- for bringing four Mexican girls into the United States and forcing them into prostitution in Plainfield, New Jersey -- 17-and-a-half years of hard time. The message to traffickers is becoming clear: If we catch you, you're going to spend time in jail. (Applause.)

This year, the Department of Justice under General Ashcroft's lead successfully prosecuted the largest human trafficking case in U.S. history, convicting the ringleader of a criminal gang that had smuggled more than 200 Vietnamese and Chinese nationals to work as slave laborers in a garment factory on American Samoa.

Since 2001, we've charged 110 traffickers. That's triple the number charged in the previous three years. We're beginning to make good, substantial progress. The message is getting out: We're serious. And when we catch you, you'll find out we're serious. We're staying on the hunt. (Applause.)

We're also taking unprecedented action to help the victims, and that's a really important part of the strategy. One of the ways traffickers keep women and girls enslaved is by telling them they will be arrested and deported if they try and run away. We're removing that tool of coercion by treating the victims of trafficking not as illegal aliens but as refugees. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act carried a special class of visas called T-Visas that allowed trafficking victims to remain in the United States and receive the same services and counseling that are provided to refugees.

Often, these women have been terribly brutalized. And when they escape from their nightmare, they should find the protection and generous heart of America. (Applause.)

So we're calling upon and rallying the armies of compassion in our society to help. Since taking office, this administration has provided \$35 million in grants to 36 local groups that are helping those who have suffered at the hands of traffickers. We're using federal monies to help spread compassion.

Today, the Justice Department is awarding \$4.5 million to nine organizations that are running shelters where victims can take refuge while they seek further help. This is a good and proper use of federal taxpayers' money. Earlier this year, the Department of Health and Human Services helped Covenant House establish a nationwide, toll-free, 24-hour hotline to report incidents of trafficking. Victims and those who know about their plight can call 1-888-373-7888. Spread the word. One speech alone is not going to get the number out. (Laughter.)

America will not tolerate slave traders who bring women and children into our country for abuse. We will not tolerate American citizens abusing innocent children abroad. Sex tourism is an estimated billion dollar a year business worldwide. No American should have any part of it. We're working with governments in Southeast Asia to crack down on pedophile sex tourism -- and many nations in that region have made substantial progress.

We also face a problem only 90 miles off our shores, where the regime of Fidel Castro has turned Cuba into a major destination for sex tourism. A recent study by the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University found that Cuba has "replaced Southeast Asia as a destination for pedophiles and sex tourists." As restrictions on travel to Cuba were eased during the 1990s, the study found an influx of American and Canadian tourists contributed to a sharp increase in child prostitution in Cuba."

The regime in Havana, already one of the worst violators of human rights in the world, is adding to its crimes. The dictator welcomes sex tourism. Here's how he bragged about the industry. This is his quote, "Cuba has the cleanest and most educated prostitutes in the world." He said that because sex tourism is a vital source of hard currency to keep his corrupt government afloat. My administration is working toward a comprehensive solution of this problem: The rapid, peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba. (Applause.) We have put a strategy in place to hasten the day when no Cuban child is exploited to finance a failed revolution and every Cuban citizen will live in freedom. (Applause.)

We have taken action to stop American tourists from participating in the sexual abuse of children in Cuba or anywhere else in the world. (Applause.) In 2003, I signed the Protect Act, which allows U.S. law enforcement to prosecute Americans who travel abroad and engage in sex with minors without having to prove prior intent. The Protect Act expands the statute of limitations to the life of the victim for crimes involving the abduction and physical or sexual abuse of children in virtually all cases. The Protect Act imposes strict new penalties, doubling the maximum sentence for U.S. citizens who travel to foreign countries to sexually abuse children. We've also launched information campaigns in foreign countries to inform American travelers of penalties back home for sexually exploiting children abroad.

See, stopping this abuse requires going after the criminal gangs who supply the sexual predators. But we cannot put them out of business until and unless we deal with the problem of demand. (Applause.) And so that's why we are going after the unscrupulous adults who prey on the young and the innocent. Last summer the Department of Homeland Security launched Operation Predator, a comprehensive effort to protect children from international sex tourists and traffickers and pornography and prostitution rings. That's why Asa Hutchinson is here. This operation

has resulted in more than 3,200 arrests nationwide. I appreciate the good work of all the men and women at every level of government who are working hard to protect women and children and bringing the predators to justice. I told you earlier, it takes hard work. I know it does. There's a lot of people working long hours to enforce the law, and therefore, make our society a more compassionate place.

All the steps I've outlined today are important, yet, the success will depend on the courage of those individuals, people like Anna Rodriguez. Where are you, Anna? Yes, thanks for coming. She is a victim advocate. I think some of you might have met her earlier today. A few years ago, Anna was working for the Collier County Sheriffs Department when she was called to what appeared to be a routine domestic violence call. Upon arriving at the scene, she noticed a 19-year-old woman named Maria crying quietly in the corner of the apartment. After some coaxing, Maria told Anna Rodriguez her story.

She had been kidnaped from her family in Guatemala. She had been smuggled into the United States. She was being kept as a slave. She was forced to work without pay in the tomato fields of central Florida and then raped at night.

At first, Anna was told by her superiors there was nothing she could do for Maria except turn her case over to the INS. She didn't give up. Anna Rodriguez obviously has a huge heart. Thanks to her persistence, Maria was rescued and her captor is now in prison. (Applause.)

See, Maria became the first adult recipient of the new T-Visa created under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Because a good law passed, she remains in the U.S. and is working to rebuild her life with the continuing support of her friend, Anna Rodriguez.

I hope out of this conference comes a determination to stand behind the Anna Rodriguezes and the thousands of other dedicated police officers, prosecutors, social workers, local officials who stand on the -- side-by-side with the victims of human trafficking every single day, who want to rescue them in the name of a compassionate America.

We're working to make sure you have the support you need in Washington, D.C. -- you've got a governor who's supporting you here in Florida -- because of the struggle against human trafficking is more than a fight against crime, see. This is more than a criminal justice matter. It's a struggle for the lives and dignity of innocent women and children. And that's why all of us must be dedicated to -- to the strategies that will enable us to prevail.

I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come by and talk about this important subject. Again, I thank you for your work of compassion and decency.

God bless. (Applause.)

###

## President's Radio Address

July 17, 2004

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Every day in America, parents struggle to raise their children in a culture that too often glorifies instant gratification and irresponsible behavior. During this time of great change in our Nation, government must stand with families to help them raise healthy, responsible children.

Yesterday, the federal government released its annual report called "America's Children in Brief." This report collects a broad range of statistics that tell us about the promises and challenges facing America's young people. The good news is that we have made significant progress during the past decade. Strong families and communities are instilling responsibility and character in our children, and we are seeing encouraging results.

Violent crime among our teenagers has decreased dramatically. From 1993 to 2002, the rate of teens committing violent crimes dropped 78 percent; and the rate of teens becoming victims of violent crimes dropped 74 percent. Among our youth, smoking and illicit drug use have declined. Teen birth rates have fallen to the lowest levels ever recorded, with the greatest progress occurring among African - American teenagers.

Studies tell us that children raised in a household with married parents are far less likely to live in poverty, fail at school, or have behavioral problems. Fortunately, after a decades-long downward trend, the percentage of children living with married parents has remained steady since 1995. And through our proposed Healthy Marriages Initiative, my Administration is committed to ensuring that more of our children grow up in a stable home with a married mother and father.

We are headed in the right direction. But we still have work to do, so my Administration is acting to encourage teens to make healthy choices. Although teen drug use has decreased, we can and must do more. We know that random drug testing in schools is effective, and it allows us to identify kids who need help. In my most recent budget, I proposed spending an additional \$23 million for school drug testing. And although teen birth rates have declined, about 3 million of our teenagers contract sexually transmitted diseases each year. So we've requested a doubling of federal funding for abstinence-only education programs. We have also requested \$25 million for our Character Education Initiative. This program will encourage schools to develop curricula that promote good character and help children develop a sense of responsibility to their community. Today, I urge the Congress to act on all these important initiatives.

When parents, schools, and government work together, we can counter the negative influences in today's culture and send the right messages to our children. As yesterday's report shows, we are making progress in changing the culture of America from one that said, "if it feels good, do it; and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which each of us understands we are responsible for the decisions we make in life. The decisions our children make now will affect their health and character for the rest of their lives. And when they make the right choices, they are preparing themselves to realize the bright future our Nation offers each of them.

Thank you for listening.

###

## FIGHTING CRIME

"For all our children's sake, this nation must reclaim our neighborhoods and our streets. We need a national strategy to assure that every community is attacking gun violence with focus and intensity. I'm here today to announce a national initiative to help cities like Philadelphia fight gun violence. [My Administration] will establish a network of law enforcement and community initiatives targeted at gun violence... We're going to reduce gun violence in America, and those who commit crimes with guns will find a determined adversary in my Administration." – President George W. Bush, May 14, 2001

### THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### ***Making America Safer***

- Violent crime rates decreased 21 percent between 1999-2000 and 2001-2002. The violent crime rate is now down to its lowest point in the last three decades.
- Property crime dropped 13 percent between 1999-2000 and 2001-2002.
- There were about 130,000 fewer victims of gun crime in 2001-2002 than there were in 1999-2000, the first two-year period with less than a million gun-crime victims since 1993.
- Since 2001 the FBI budget has increased 60 percent.
- The President directed the Department of Justice, as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, to prosecute aggressively those who use guns illegally. The Bush Administration has devoted more than \$1 billion to Project Safe Neighborhoods.
- In 2003, the Department of Justice brought charges against more than 13,000 offenders for Federal firearms crimes, the highest annual figure on record. In the past three years, Federal prosecutions of gun crime have increased 68 percent.
- The Bush Administration proposed and is implementing Project Child Safe to help provide free trigger locks to all handgun owners.
- The President supports the bipartisan Crime Victims' Rights Amendment, ensuring that victims of violent crime have the right to be notified of public proceedings involving the crime, to be heard at public proceedings regarding the criminal's sentence or potential release, to have their safety considered, and to have consideration of their claims of restitution.
- President Bush proposed the Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology initiative, with \$1 billion in funding over five years to identify criminals quickly and accurately, protect the innocent from wrongful prosecution, and help identify missing persons. The initiative will help eliminate backlogs of unanalyzed DNA samples, improve laboratory capacity, stimulate research and development, and provide training in the collection and use of DNA evidence.
- The President signed the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act exempting law enforcement officers from state laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed firearms.

### ***Helping Victims of Domestic Violence***

- The Bush Administration has secured historic levels of funding for programs that prosecute offenders and protect women against domestic violence.
- Twenty million dollars in grants have been awarded to help communities establish and support Family Justice Centers across America, which will provide domestic violence victims and their families comprehensive services.

### ***Cutting Drug Use and Increasing Drug Treatment***

- Youth drug use declined by more than 10 percent between 2001 and 2003, meaning 400,000 fewer young people used drugs.
- Recent use of ecstasy, which sharply increased between 1998 and 2001, fell by half among middle and high school students between 2001 and 2003, and recent use of LSD fell by almost two-thirds.
- The Bush Administration launched Access to Recovery – an initiative to provide drug treatment to individuals otherwise unable to obtain access to services. People in need of treatment receive an assessment of their treatment need and are issued vouchers to obtain help at effective treatment organizations, including faith-based and community facilities.
- President Bush proposed \$25 million – a \$23 million increase – to help schools develop and implement student drug testing programs.

### ***Ending Racial Profiling***

- Less than six weeks after taking office, President Bush called for an end to racial profiling in Federal law enforcement. He is the first President to do so. And the Administration has implemented specific guidelines prohibiting the practice in Federal law enforcement.

## **National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2004**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

December 2, 2004

As a Nation, we have made great strides in reducing the deadly cost of impaired driving, but driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs still shatters too many lives and robs too many people of their potential. During National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, we continue our work to end impaired driving and urge all Americans to be responsible and safe drivers this holiday season and throughout the year.

My Administration is committed to saving lives and preventing injuries resulting from alcohol- and drug-impaired driving. The NHTSA sponsors public education programs such as the "You Drink & Drive. You Lose." campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of drunk and drugged driving, and works with State and local law enforcement agencies as they conduct sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols. In addition, the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign has invested millions of dollars to educate Americans about the threat posed by illegal drugs and drugged driving. We are also increasing resources for State enforcement and education programs. My Administration awarded \$80.6 million in grants this year to States that have lowered the legal threshold for impaired driving to .08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC). As of this year, all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have adopted this legal definition of impaired driving.

Individuals across our country can help prevent drunk and drugged driving by encouraging responsible actions, identifying sober designated drivers, and educating young people about safe, substance-free driving behavior. Working together, all Americans can make our roads safer and save lives by preventing drunk and drugged driving.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 December 2004 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

# Withdrawal Marker

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## State of the Union Address

Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives  
The United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C.

February 2, 2005

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Speaker, Vice President Cheney, members of Congress, fellow citizens:

As a new Congress gathers, all of us in the elected branches of government share a great privilege: We've been placed in office by the votes of the people we serve. And tonight that is a privilege we share with newly-elected leaders of Afghanistan, the Palestinian Territories, Ukraine, and a free and sovereign Iraq. (Applause.)

Two weeks ago, I stood on the steps of this Capitol and renewed the commitment of our nation to the guiding ideal of liberty for all. This evening I will set forth policies to advance that ideal at home and around the world.

Tonight, with a healthy, growing economy, with more Americans going back to work, with our nation an active force for good in the world -- the state of our union is confident and strong. (Applause.)

Our generation has been blessed -- by the expansion of opportunity, by advances in medicine, by the security purchased by our parents' sacrifice. Now, as we see a little gray in the mirror -- or a lot of gray -- (laughter) -- and we watch our children moving into adulthood, we ask the question: What will be the state of their union? Members of Congress, the choices we make together will answer that question. Over the next several months, on issue after issue, let us do what Americans have always done, and build a better world for our children and our grandchildren. (Applause.)

First, we must be good stewards of this economy, and renew the great institutions on which millions of our fellow citizens rely. America's economy is the fastest growing of any major industrialized nation. In the past four years, we provided tax relief to every person who pays income taxes, overcome a recession, opened up new markets abroad, prosecuted corporate criminals, raised homeownership to its highest level in history, and in the last year alone, the United States has added 2.3 million new jobs. (Applause.) When action was needed, the Congress delivered -- and the nation is grateful.

Now we must add to these achievements. By making our economy more flexible, more innovative, and more competitive, we will keep America the economic leader of the world. (Applause.)

America's prosperity requires restraining the spending appetite of the federal government. I welcome the bipartisan enthusiasm for spending discipline. I will send you a budget that holds the growth of discretionary spending below inflation, makes tax relief permanent, and stays on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009. (Applause.) My budget substantially reduces or eliminates more than 150 government programs that are not getting results, or duplicate current efforts, or do not fulfill essential priorities. The principle here is clear: Taxpayer dollars must be spent wisely, or not at all. (Applause.)

To make our economy stronger and more dynamic, we must prepare a rising generation to fill the jobs of the 21st century. Under the No Child Left Behind Act, standards are higher, test scores are on the rise, and we're closing the achievement gap for minority students. Now we must demand better results from our high schools, so every high school diploma is a ticket to success. We will help an additional 200,000 workers to get training for a better career, by reforming our job training system and strengthening America's community colleges. And we'll make it easier for Americans to afford a college education, by increasing the size of Pell Grants. (Applause.)

To make our economy stronger and more competitive, America must reward, not punish, the efforts and dreams of entrepreneurs. Small business is the path of advancement, especially for women and minorities, so we must free small businesses from needless regulation and protect honest job-creators from junk lawsuits. (Applause.) Justice is distorted, and our economy is held back by irresponsible class-actions and frivolous asbestos claims -- and I urge Congress to pass legal reforms this year. (Applause.)

To make our economy stronger and more productive, we must make health care more affordable, and give families greater access to good coverage -- (applause) -- and more control over their health decisions. (Applause.) I ask Congress to move forward on a comprehensive health care agenda with tax credits to help low-income workers buy insurance, a community health center in every poor county, improved information technology to prevent medical error and needless costs, association health plans for small businesses and their employees -- (applause) -- expanded health savings accounts -- (applause) -- and medical liability reform that will reduce health care costs and make sure patients have the doctors and care they need. (Applause.)

To keep our economy growing, we also need reliable supplies of affordable, environmentally responsible energy. (Applause.) Nearly four years ago, I submitted a comprehensive energy strategy that encourages conservation, alternative sources, a modernized electricity grid, and more production here at home -- including safe, clean nuclear energy. (Applause.) My Clear Skies legislation will cut power plant pollution and improve the health of our citizens. (Applause.) And my budget provides strong funding for leading-edge technology -- from hydrogen-fueled cars, to clean coal, to renewable sources such as ethanol. (Applause.) Four years of debate is enough: I urge Congress to pass legislation that makes America more secure and less dependent on foreign energy. (Applause.)

All these proposals are essential to expand this economy and add new jobs -- but they are just the beginning of our duty. To build the prosperity of future generations, we must update institutions that were created to meet the needs of an earlier time. Year after year, Americans are burdened by an archaic, incoherent federal tax code. I've appointed a bipartisan panel to examine the tax code from top to bottom. And when their recommendations are delivered, you and I will work together to give this nation a tax code that is pro-growth, easy to understand, and fair to all. (Applause.)

America's immigration system is also outdated -- unsuited to the needs of our economy and to the values of our country. We should not be content with laws that punish hardworking people who want only to provide for their families, and deny businesses willing workers, and invite chaos at our border. It is time for an immigration policy that permits temporary guest workers to fill jobs Americans will not take, that rejects amnesty, that tells us who is entering and leaving our country, and that closes the border to drug dealers and terrorists. (Applause.)

One of America's most important institutions -- a symbol of the trust between generations -- is also in need of wise and effective reform. Social Security was a great moral success of the 20th century, and we must honor its great purposes in this new century. (Applause.) The system, however, on its current path, is headed toward bankruptcy. And so we must join together to strengthen and save Social Security. (Applause.)

Today, more than 45 million Americans receive Social Security benefits, and millions more are nearing retirement -- and for them the system is sound and fiscally strong. I have a message for every American who is 55 or older: Do not let anyone mislead you; for you, the Social Security system will not change in any way. (Applause.) For younger workers, the Social Security system has serious problems that will grow worse with time. Social Security was created decades ago, for a very different era. In those days, people did not live as long. Benefits were much lower than they are today. And a half-century ago, about sixteen workers paid into the system for each person drawing benefits.

Our society has changed in ways the founders of Social Security could not have foreseen. In today's world, people are living longer and, therefore, drawing benefits longer. And those benefits are scheduled to rise dramatically over the next few decades. And instead of sixteen workers paying in for every beneficiary, right now it's only about three workers. And over the next few decades that number will fall to just two workers per beneficiary. With each passing year, fewer workers are paying ever-higher benefits to an ever-larger number of retirees.

So here is the result: Thirteen years from now, in 2018, Social Security will be paying out more than it takes in. And every year afterward will bring a new shortfall, bigger than the year before. For example, in the year 2027, the government will somehow have to come up with an extra \$200 billion to keep the system afloat -- and by 2033, the annual shortfall would be more than \$300 billion. By the year 2042, the entire system would be exhausted and bankrupt. If steps are not taken to avert that outcome, the only solutions would be dramatically higher taxes, massive new borrowing, or sudden and severe cuts in Social Security benefits or other government programs.

I recognize that 2018 and 2042 may seem a long way off. But those dates are not so distant, as any parent will tell you. If you have a five-year-old, you're already concerned about how you'll pay for college tuition 13 years down

the road. If you've got children in their 20s, as some of us do, the idea of Social Security collapsing before they retire does not seem like a small matter. And it should not be a small matter to the United States Congress. (Applause.) You and I share a responsibility. We must pass reforms that solve the financial problems of Social Security once and for all.

Fixing Social Security permanently will require an open, candid review of the options. Some have suggested limiting benefits for wealthy retirees. Former Congressman Tim Penny has raised the possibility of indexing benefits to prices rather than wages. During the 1990s, my predecessor, President Clinton, spoke of increasing the retirement age. Former Senator John Breaux suggested discouraging early collection of Social Security benefits. The late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan recommended changing the way benefits are calculated. All these ideas are on the table.

I know that none of these reforms would be easy. But we have to move ahead with courage and honesty, because our children's retirement security is more important than partisan politics. (Applause.) I will work with members of Congress to find the most effective combination of reforms. I will listen to anyone who has a good idea to offer. (Applause.) We must, however, be guided by some basic principles. We must make Social Security permanently sound, not leave that task for another day. We must not jeopardize our economic strength by increasing payroll taxes. We must ensure that lower-income Americans get the help they need to have dignity and peace of mind in their retirement. We must guarantee there is no change for those now retired or nearing retirement. And we must take care that any changes in the system are gradual, so younger workers have years to prepare and plan for their future.

As we fix Social Security, we also have the responsibility to make the system a better deal for younger workers. And the best way to reach that goal is through voluntary personal retirement accounts. (Applause.) Here is how the idea works. Right now, a set portion of the money you earn is taken out of your paycheck to pay for the Social Security benefits of today's retirees. If you're a younger worker, I believe you should be able to set aside part of that money in your own retirement account, so you can build a nest egg for your own future.

Here's why the personal accounts are a better deal. Your money will grow, over time, at a greater rate than anything the current system can deliver -- and your account will provide money for retirement over and above the check you will receive from Social Security. In addition, you'll be able to pass along the money that accumulates in your personal account, if you wish, to your children and -- or grandchildren. And best of all, the money in the account is yours, and the government can never take it away. (Applause.)

The goal here is greater security in retirement, so we will set careful guidelines for personal accounts. We'll make sure the money can only go into a conservative mix of bonds and stock funds. We'll make sure that your earnings are not eaten up by hidden Wall Street fees. We'll make sure there are good options to protect your investments from sudden market swings on the eve of your retirement. We'll make sure a personal account cannot be emptied out all at once, but rather paid out over time, as an addition to traditional Social Security benefits. And we'll make sure this plan is fiscally responsible, by starting personal retirement accounts gradually, and raising the yearly limits on contributions over time, eventually permitting all workers to set aside four percentage points of their payroll taxes in their accounts.

Personal retirement accounts should be familiar to federal employees, because you already have something similar, called the Thrift Savings Plan, which lets workers deposit a portion of their paychecks into any of five different broadly-based investment funds. It's time to extend the same security, and choice, and ownership to young Americans. (Applause.)

Our second great responsibility to our children and grandchildren is to honor and to pass along the values that sustain a free society. So many of my generation, after a long journey, have come home to family and faith, and are determined to bring up responsible, moral children. Government is not the source of these values, but government should never undermine them.

Because marriage is a sacred institution and the foundation of society, it should not be re-defined by activist judges. For the good of families, children, and society, I support a constitutional amendment to protect the institution of marriage. (Applause.)

Because a society is measured by how it treats the weak and vulnerable, we must strive to build a culture of life. Medical research can help us reach that goal, by developing treatments and cures that save lives and help people overcome disabilities -- and I thank the Congress for doubling the funding of the National Institutes of Health. (Applause.) To build a culture of life, we must also ensure that scientific advances always serve human dignity, not take advantage of some lives for the benefit of others. We should all be able to agree -- (applause) -- we should all be able to agree on some clear standards. I will work with Congress to ensure that human embryos are not created for experimentation or grown for body parts, and that human life is never bought and sold as a commodity. (Applause.) America will continue to lead the world in medical research that is ambitious, aggressive, and always ethical.

Because courts must always deliver impartial justice, judges have a duty to faithfully interpret the law, not legislate from the bench. (Applause.) As President, I have a constitutional responsibility to nominate men and women who understand the role of courts in our democracy, and are well-qualified to serve on the bench -- and I have done so. (Applause.) The Constitution also gives the Senate a responsibility: Every judicial nominee deserves an up or down vote. (Applause.)

Because one of the deepest values of our country is compassion, we must never turn away from any citizen who feels isolated from the opportunities of America. Our government will continue to support faith-based and community groups that bring hope to harsh places. Now we need to focus on giving young people, especially young men in our cities, better options than apathy, or gangs, or jail. Tonight I propose a three-year initiative to help organizations keep young people out of gangs, and show young men an ideal of manhood that respects women and rejects violence. (Applause.) Taking on gang life will be one part of a broader outreach to at-risk youth, which involves parents and pastors, coaches and community leaders, in programs ranging from literacy to sports. And I am proud that the leader of this nationwide effort will be our First Lady, Laura Bush. (Applause.)

Because HIV/AIDS brings suffering and fear into so many lives, I ask you to reauthorize the Ryan White Act to encourage prevention, and provide care and treatment to the victims of that disease. (Applause.) And as we update this important law, we must focus our efforts on fellow citizens with the highest rates of new cases, African American men and women. (Applause.)

Because one of the main sources of our national unity is our belief in equal justice, we need to make sure Americans of all races and backgrounds have confidence in the system that provides justice. In America we must make doubly sure no person is held to account for a crime he or she did not commit -- so we are dramatically expanding the use of DNA evidence to prevent wrongful conviction. (Applause.) Soon I will send to Congress a proposal to fund special training for defense counsel in capital cases, because people on trial for their lives must have competent lawyers by their side. (Applause.)

Our third responsibility to future generations is to leave them an America that is safe from danger, and protected by peace. We will pass along to our children all the freedoms we enjoy -- and chief among them is freedom from fear.

In the three and a half years since September the 11th, 2001, we have taken unprecedented actions to protect Americans. We've created a new department of government to defend our homeland, focused the FBI on preventing terrorism, begun to reform our intelligence agencies, broken up terror cells across the country, expanded research on defenses against biological and chemical attack, improved border security, and trained more than a half-million first responders. Police and firefighters, air marshals, researchers, and so many others are working every day to make our homeland safer, and we thank them all. (Applause.)

Our nation, working with allies and friends, has also confronted the enemy abroad, with measures that are determined, successful, and continuing. The al Qaeda terror network that attacked our country still has leaders -- but many of its top commanders have been removed. There are still governments that sponsor and harbor terrorists -- but their number has declined. There are still regimes seeking weapons of mass destruction -- but no longer without attention and without consequence. Our country is still the target of terrorists who want to kill many, and intimidate us all -- and we will stay on the offensive against them, until the fight is won. (Applause.)

Pursuing our enemies is a vital commitment of the war on terror -- and I thank the Congress for providing our servicemen and women with the resources they have needed. During this time of war, we must continue to support our military and give them the tools for victory. (Applause.)

Other nations around the globe have stood with us. In Afghanistan, an international force is helping provide security. In Iraq, 28 countries have troops on the ground, the United Nations and the European Union provided technical assistance for the elections, and NATO is leading a mission to help train Iraqi officers. We're cooperating with 60 governments in the Proliferation Security Initiative, to detect and stop the transit of dangerous materials. We're working closely with the governments in Asia to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and nine other countries have captured or detained al Qaeda terrorists. In the next four years, my administration will continue to build the coalitions that will defeat the dangers of our time. (Applause.)

In the long-term, the peace we seek will only be achieved by eliminating the conditions that feed radicalism and ideologies of murder. If whole regions of the world remain in despair and grow in hatred, they will be the recruiting grounds for terror, and that terror will stalk America and other free nations for decades. The only force powerful enough to stop the rise of tyranny and terror, and replace hatred with hope, is the force of human freedom. (Applause.) Our enemies know this, and that is why the terrorist Zarqawi recently declared war on what he called the "evil principle" of democracy. And we've declared our own intention: America will stand with the allies of freedom to support democratic movements in the Middle East and beyond, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world. (Applause.)

The United States has no right, no desire, and no intention to impose our form of government on anyone else. That is one of the main differences between us and our enemies. They seek to impose and expand an empire of oppression, in which a tiny group of brutal, self-appointed rulers control every aspect of every life. Our aim is to build and preserve a community of free and independent nations, with governments that answer to their citizens, and reflect their own cultures. And because democracies respect their own people and their neighbors, the advance of freedom will lead to peace. (Applause.)

That advance has great momentum in our time -- shown by women voting in Afghanistan, and Palestinians choosing a new direction, and the people of Ukraine asserting their democratic rights and electing a president. We are witnessing landmark events in the history of liberty. And in the coming years, we will add to that story. (Applause.)

The beginnings of reform and democracy in the Palestinian territories are now showing the power of freedom to break old patterns of violence and failure. Tomorrow morning, Secretary of State Rice departs on a trip that will take her to Israel and the West Bank for meetings with Prime Minister Sharon and President Abbas. She will discuss with them how we and our friends can help the Palestinian people end terror and build the institutions of a peaceful, independent, democratic state. To promote this democracy, I will ask Congress for \$350 million to support Palestinian political, economic, and security reforms. The goal of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace, is within reach -- and America will help them achieve that goal. (Applause.)

To promote peace and stability in the broader Middle East, the United States will work with our friends in the region to fight the common threat of terror, while we encourage a higher standard of freedom. Hopeful reform is already taking hold in an arc from Morocco to Jordan to Bahrain. The government of Saudi Arabia can demonstrate its leadership in the region by expanding the role of its people in determining their future. And the great and proud nation of Egypt, which showed the way toward peace in the Middle East, can now show the way toward democracy in the Middle East. (Applause.)

To promote peace in the broader Middle East, we must confront regimes that continue to harbor terrorists and pursue weapons of mass murder. Syria still allows its territory, and parts of Lebanon, to be used by terrorists who seek to destroy every chance of peace in the region. You have passed, and we are applying, the Syrian Accountability Act -- and we expect the Syrian government to end all support for terror and open the door to freedom. (Applause.) Today, Iran remains the world's primary state sponsor of terror -- pursuing nuclear weapons while depriving its people of the freedom they seek and deserve. We are working with European allies to make clear to the Iranian regime that it must give up its uranium enrichment program and any plutonium reprocessing, and end its support for terror. And to the Iranian people, I say tonight: As you stand for your own liberty, America stands with you. (Applause.)

Our generational commitment to the advance of freedom, especially in the Middle East, is now being tested and honored in Iraq. That country is a vital front in the war on terror, which is why the terrorists have chosen to make a stand there. Our men and women in uniform are fighting terrorists in Iraq, so we do not have to face them here at home. (Applause.) And the victory of freedom in Iraq will strengthen a new ally in the war on terror, inspire

democratic reformers from Damascus to Tehran, bring more hope and progress to a troubled region, and thereby lift a terrible threat from the lives of our children and grandchildren.

We will succeed because the Iraqi people value their own liberty -- as they showed the world last Sunday. (Applause.) Across Iraq, often at great risk, millions of citizens went to the polls and elected 275 men and women to represent them in a new Transitional National Assembly. A young woman in Baghdad told of waking to the sound of mortar fire on election day, and wondering if it might be too dangerous to vote. She said, "Hearing those explosions, it occurred to me -- the insurgents are weak, they are afraid of democracy, they are losing. So I got my husband, and I got my parents, and we all came out and voted together."

Americans recognize that spirit of liberty, because we share it. In any nation, casting your vote is an act of civic responsibility; for millions of Iraqis, it was also an act of personal courage, and they have earned the respect of us all. (Applause.)

One of Iraq's leading democracy and human rights advocates is Safia Taleb al-Suhail. She says of her country, "We were occupied for 35 years by Saddam Hussein. That was the real occupation. Thank you to the American people who paid the cost, but most of all, to the soldiers." Eleven years ago, Safia's father was assassinated by Saddam's intelligence service. Three days ago in Baghdad, Safia was finally able to vote for the leaders of her country -- and we are honored that she is with us tonight. (Applause.)

The terrorists and insurgents are violently opposed to democracy, and will continue to attack it. Yet, the terrorists' most powerful myth is being destroyed. The whole world is seeing that the car bombers and assassins are not only fighting coalition forces, they are trying to destroy the hopes of Iraqis, expressed in free elections. And the whole world now knows that a small group of extremists will not overturn the will of the Iraqi people. (Applause.)

We will succeed in Iraq because Iraqis are determined to fight for their own freedom, and to write their own history. As Prime Minister Allawi said in his speech to Congress last September, "Ordinary Iraqis are anxious to shoulder all the security burdens of our country as quickly as possible." That is the natural desire of an independent nation, and it is also the stated mission of our coalition in Iraq. The new political situation in Iraq opens a new phase of our work in that country.

At the recommendation of our commanders on the ground, and in consultation with the Iraqi government, we will increasingly focus our efforts on helping prepare more capable Iraqi security forces -- forces with skilled officers and an effective command structure. As those forces become more self-reliant and take on greater security responsibilities, America and its coalition partners will increasingly be in a supporting role. In the end, Iraqis must be able to defend their own country -- and we will help that proud, new nation secure its liberty.

Recently an Iraqi interpreter said to a reporter, "Tell America not to abandon us." He and all Iraqis can be certain: While our military strategy is adapting to circumstances, our commitment remains firm and unchanging. We are standing for the freedom of our Iraqi friends, and freedom in Iraq will make America safer for generations to come. (Applause.) We will not set an artificial timetable for leaving Iraq, because that would embolden the terrorists and make them believe they can wait us out. We are in Iraq to achieve a result: A country that is democratic, representative of all its people, at peace with its neighbors, and able to defend itself. And when that result is achieved, our men and women serving in Iraq will return home with the honor they have earned. (Applause.)

Right now, Americans in uniform are serving at posts across the world, often taking great risks on my orders. We have given them training and equipment; and they have given us an example of idealism and character that makes every American proud. (Applause.) The volunteers of our military are unrelenting in battle, unwavering in loyalty, unmatched in honor and decency, and every day they're making our nation more secure. Some of our servicemen and women have survived terrible injuries, and this grateful country will do everything we can to help them recover. (Applause.) And we have said farewell to some very good men and women, who died for our freedom, and whose memory this nation will honor forever.

One name we honor is Marine Corps Sergeant Byron Norwood of Pflugerville, Texas, who was killed during the assault on Fallujah. His mom, Janet, sent me a letter and told me how much Byron loved being a Marine, and how proud he was to be on the front line against terror. She wrote, "When Byron was home the last time, I said that I wanted to protect him like I had since he was born. He just hugged me and said, 'You've done your job, Mom. Now

it is my turn to protect you." Ladies and gentlemen, with grateful hearts, we honor freedom's defenders, and our military families, represented here this evening by Sergeant Norwood's mom and dad, Janet and Bill Norwood. (Applause.)

In these four years, Americans have seen the unfolding of large events. We have known times of sorrow, and hours of uncertainty, and days of victory. In all this history, even when we have disagreed, we have seen threads of purpose that unite us. The attack on freedom in our world has reaffirmed our confidence in freedom's power to change the world. We are all part of a great venture: To extend the promise of freedom in our country, to renew the values that sustain our liberty, and to spread the peace that freedom brings.

As Franklin Roosevelt once reminded Americans, "Each age is a dream that is dying, or one that is coming to birth." And we live in the country where the biggest dreams are born. The abolition of slavery was only a dream -- until it was fulfilled. The liberation of Europe from fascism was only a dream -- until it was achieved. The fall of imperial communism was only a dream -- until, one day, it was accomplished. Our generation has dreams of its own, and we also go forward with confidence. The road of Providence is uneven and unpredictable -- yet we know where it leads: It leads to freedom.

Thank you, and may God bless America. (Applause.)

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## **Fact Sheet: Ensuring Justice and Fairness for All Americans**

February 2, 2005

### **Presidential Action**

An important part of the American character is our system of justice, and we have a solemn obligation to make sure that cases involving the death penalty have been handled in full accordance with all the guarantees of our Constitution. The foundations of America's democracy depend on the assurance of fairness in our legal system.

The President is committed to ensuring justice and fairness in America's legal system by providing full funding for the use of DNA evidence to solve crime and prevent wrongful convictions, and additional training for defense counsel to help ensure people on trial for their lives have competent attorneys at their side. Additional training will also help ensure prosecutors and judges have skills they need to ensure a fair trial.

### **Background on Presidential Action**

**American unity is strengthened by our confident belief in a fair and accurate legal system.**

- *DNA technology can be vital in ensuring accuracy and fairness in the criminal justice system.* DNA can be used to identify criminals with incredible accuracy when biological evidence exists, and DNA can be used to clear suspects and exonerate persons mistakenly accused or convicted of crimes.
  - DNA backlogs overwhelm many public crime labs, and these labs need help automating equipment to handle the increasing influx of DNA samples and evidence and to prevent future backlogs. The problems of backlogs and the lack of up-to-date technology can result in significant delays in the administration of justice.
  - More research is needed to develop faster, less expensive methods for analyzing DNA evidence; and
  - More training is needed for professionals in the criminal justice system to ensure the optimal use of DNA evidence to solve crimes and assist victims.
- *Individuals on trial for their lives deserve competent attorneys.* In addition to the Federal government, 38 states have death penalty laws. In 2003, 144 offenders received the death sentence in the United States. The integrity of the legal system requires that defendants have competent representation.

**The President is committed to ensuring fairness and justice for all Americans in our legal system.**

- *President Bush urged Congress to fully fund his DNA Initiative to solve crime and protect the innocent from wrongful conviction* through elimination of existing backlogs of DNA samples, strengthening lab capacity, expanding testing for convicted offenders, training for law enforcement and attorneys on the use of DNA, and using DNA to identify missing persons and bring closure to victims. As part of the President's five-year, \$1 billion DNA Initiative, the President's FY 2006 budget supports \$236 million in Federal funding. These reforms benefit victims and the accused by identifying the guilty and exonerating the innocent.
- *President Bush's new proposal will provide additional training for defense counsel, prosecutors, and judges for state capital cases* to help ensure they are adequately trained to handle capital trials. The President proposed \$50 million over three years, including \$20 million in FY 2006, for training private defense counsel and public defenders, state and local prosecutors, and state judges to help ensure the competence and effectiveness of all participants connected with the trial of state capital cases. In addition, once trained, the lawyers who have undergone the training can serve as advisors to other lawyers in particular cases.

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## **National Consumer Protection Week, 2005**

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

February 7, 2005

This year's National Consumer Protection Week focuses on the impact and problems caused by identity theft and on the steps Government is taking to safeguard personal information. Today, many Americans reveal personal information when making purchases, borrowing money, or opening a bank or credit card account. This information makes it convenient to conduct routine transactions, but consumers must take precautions to protect their names, addresses, phone numbers, Social Security numbers, and account numbers against fraud and theft.

As one of the highest impact financial crimes in our Nation, identity theft can undermine the basic trust on which our economy depends. Millions of Americans have had their identity stolen, costing them and our country's businesses billions of dollars. Identity theft can shake consumers' confidence, destroy a person's financial reputation, and damage lifelong efforts to build and maintain a good credit rating.

We are acting to protect citizens from these crimes and the grief and problems they cause. During the last 2 years, I have signed the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003, which makes it easier for consumers to detect and protect themselves from fraud, and the Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act, which strengthens the penalties for identity theft. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Secret Service are working with State and local officials to stop the criminal networks responsible for much of the identity theft in America. The Federal Trade Commission also trains local law enforcement in detecting and investigating identity theft, and they have set up the Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, which tracks complaints across the country and provides these records to prosecutors seeking to shut down those who steal our citizens' good names.

Consumers can learn to prevent identity theft by visiting the National Consumer Protection Week website, [www.consumer.gov/ncpw](http://www.consumer.gov/ncpw). Working together, we can reduce this growing problem and protect the financial security of our citizens and our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 February 6 through February 12, 2005, as National Consumer Protection Week. I call upon government officials, industry leaders, and consumer advocates to provide citizens with information about identity theft and how they can be responsible consumers, and I encourage all citizens to take an active role in protecting their personal information.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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## **National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2005**

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

March 31, 2005

In proclaiming the first Victims' Rights Week in 1981, President Reagan said, "it is time all of us paid greater heed to the plight of victims." Since then, America has made great progress in treating crime victims with greater respect, meeting their needs, and providing them with help, hope, and healing. Each year, during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we remember those who have lost their lives in violent crimes. We also renew our commitment to address the needs of victims and their families and to build public awareness of crime victims' rights.

The violent crime rate is at its lowest point in three decades. We must remain steadfast in our efforts to make America safer for all citizens and fairer for victims of crime. The Department of Justice has received historic levels of funding for programs to protect women and prosecute criminals. Family Justice Centers are helping local communities provide comprehensive services to victims of domestic crime and their loved ones. State and local law enforcement officials are continuing to serve the public and assist victims of crime. I signed into law the Justice for All Act of 2004, which expands DNA testing and enhances the scope and enforceability of crime victims' rights.

As we work to combat crime and support victims, we must also ensure the fairness and effectiveness of our criminal justice system. All 50 States and the Federal Government have passed important legal protections for victims of violent crime, and more than half the States have amended their constitutions to guarantee rights for victims. My Administration continues to support the bipartisan Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the Constitution, which would safeguard basic rights for victims regarding their safety, notification of public proceedings involving the crime, and claims of restitution.

Across our Nation, individuals and organizations -- including faith-based and community groups -- are dedicated to defending and securing the rights of crime victims and providing hope and healing to those who hurt. Together, their commitment and compassion help ensure that our legal system stands up for the rights of victims and that our communities step forward to lend a hand to people in need. During this week, we honor their extraordinary work and renew our pledge to protect the rights of crime victims.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 April 10 through April 16, 2005, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I encourage all Americans to highlight and advance the cause of victims' rights in their communities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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## **National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2005**

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

April 1, 2005

Our Nation has a responsibility to build a safe and nurturing society so that our young people can realize their full potential. During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we renew our commitment to preventing child abuse and rededicate ourselves to working together to ensure that all children can have a bright and hopeful future.

Creating a protective environment for our young people requires the shared commitment of individuals, families, and faith-based and community organizations. Parents and family members are the first and most important influence in a child's life. A safe and stable family can provide children with a foundation of love and security that encourages positive growth and development. Federal, State, and local government officials can also improve the lives of our young people by doing all they can to keep children safe from harm.

Together, we can protect our future generations so that they can realize the opportunities of our Nation. By providing help and hope to our young people, we will build a better and more compassionate world for our children and grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 April 2005 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I encourage all Americans to protect our children from abuse and neglect and to help ensure that every child can grow up in a secure and loving environment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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May 11, 2005  
(House)

## STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

### H.R. 1279 – Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act of 2005

(Rep. Forbes (R) Virginia and 15 cosponsors)

The Administration supports House passage of H.R. 1279, which would expand the coverage of Federal laws targeted at gang activities and boost the sentences available for violations of these laws. These changes would permit the increased use of Federal laws to attack the Nation's gang and violent crime problems. Aggressive law enforcement and tougher sentencing laws bear a good deal of the responsibility for the precipitous reduction in crime rates, especially for violent crime, over the past decade. The Administration believes that it is important to increase penalties for illegal gang activity, both to deter violence and encourage cooperation from gang members who are already conditioned to understand that they will do some prison time, but often cooperate when faced with heavier prison time.

The Administration has concerns with the bill's creation of new programs at the Department of Justice (DoJ) to combat violent crimes in high-intensity interstate gang activity areas and with the bill's appropriations authorization of \$77.5 million annually for each of FY's 2006-2010. The Administration believes that the gang problem will best be solved through a multi-disciplinary approach involving existing Justice programs that are focused on law enforcement and the Administration's proposed gang involvement prevention initiative at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The gang involvement prevention initiative proposed by the President will be complementary to these existing DoJ programs. This initiative, to be funded through HHS' Compassion Capital Fund in the amount of \$150 million over a period of three years, will support grants to faith-based and community organizations to provide targeted outreach to youth at risk of gang involvement and direct them to supportive social services. The Administration believes that the existing DoJ programs provide law enforcement agencies with the needed flexibility to choose the strategy that will work best against the criminal organizations in their area and that these new DoJ programs are not necessary.

We look forward to working with Congress to improve this bill as it moves through the legislative process. The Administration also looks forward to working with Congress to ensure that the criminal provisions of the bill are appropriately limited to cases in which the crime has a constitutionally sufficient link to interstate or foreign commerce.

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## **Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2005**

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

May 13, 2005

Across our Nation, the courageous men and women who protect our communities wear the uniform and badge with pride as they safeguard our families, homes, and communities. On Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, we honor the memory of those heroes who have fallen in the line of duty and recognize all those who put themselves at risk in the fight against crime, violence, and terrorism.

More than 800,000 men and women serve as officers of the law in the United States. They serve in varying capacities, including as U.S. Marshals, county sheriffs, deputies, State patrolmen, municipal police, and Federal agents. They share the fundamental qualities of discipline, integrity, and courage. Since our Nation's founding, peace officers have upheld the rule of law and defended the innocent, and we are grateful to them and their families for all they do to strengthen our communities.

On Peace Officers' Memorial Day, we pause to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. These brave men and women accepted the responsibilities of a noble calling and were willing to face danger for our safety. By having their names engraved into the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial in Washington, D.C., and praying for their families, we honor the memory of these fallen heroes and show the respect of a grateful Nation.

During Police Week and throughout the year, I urge all Americans to support law enforcement officers in the fight against crime. Every citizen can assist his or her local police force to help make our communities safer. Successful Citizen Corps programs like Neighborhood Watch and Volunteers in Police Service are making a difference in the lives of others, one heart and one neighborhood at a time. Information about these and other volunteer programs can be obtained by visiting the Citizen Corps website at [citizencorps.gov](http://citizencorps.gov). By working together, we can continue to build a safer America.

By a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962, as amended, (76 Stat. 676), the Congress has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers' Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week," and by Public Law 103 322, as amended, (36 U.S.C. 136), has directed that the flag be flown at half staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2005, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and May 15 through May 21, 2005, as

Police Week. I call on all Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call on Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half staff on Peace Officers' Memorial Day. I further encourage all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes and businesses on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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COPY  
FROM ORM

THE WHITE HOUSE

6/24/05

WASHINGTON

June 20, 2005

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CLAUDE A. ALLEN

FROM: ALLYSON HO

SUBJECT: FEDERAL SENTENCING GUIDELINES

In 1987, the U.S. Sentencing Commission issued the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which require Federal judges to sentence defendants within a set range. The Sentencing Guidelines were designed to address disparities in sentencing, which were thought to undermine confidence in the criminal justice system, promote racial distinctions, and create unfairness. In January, the Supreme Court held in *United States v. Booker* that the Sentencing Guidelines are no longer mandatory, but are advisory only.

In the five months since the *Booker* decision, the Justice Department has observed a trend toward increasing disparity in sentencing and a drift toward lighter sentences. On Tuesday in a speech before the National Center for Victims of Crime, the Attorney General plans to announce that the Department is ready to move forward on working with Congress, the judiciary, and other stakeholders to restore a mandatory-guidelines system to the extent that the Constitution permits. The Department believes it is important for the Administration to participate in the ongoing debate over sentencing reform, so that silence is not misconstrued as lack of concern.

The Attorney General will not endorse any specific proposal or call for legislation at this time. Instead, he will emphasize the need for reform generally in order to re-create a mandatory-guidelines system that will comply with *Booker* and ensure fairer and more effective Federal sentencing. Under the legislative option preferred by the Department, Congress would change the law to establish the minimum possible sentence under the Sentencing Guidelines (as before *Booker*), but make the maximum possible sentence advisory (as it is after *Booker*). The Department acknowledges this option will almost certainly be challenged in court, but does not believe that possibility warrants inaction.

Your advisors will keep you apprised of further developments.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

July 26, 2005  
(Senate)

## STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

**S. 397 - Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act**  
(Sen. Craig (R) Idaho and 59 cosponsors)

The Administration strongly supports Senate passage of S. 397. The Administration urges the Senate to pass a clean bill, in order to ensure enactment of the legislation this year. Any amendment that would delay enactment of the bill beyond this year is unacceptable. The manufacturer or seller of a legal, non-defective product should not be held liable for the criminal or unlawful misuse of that product by others. The possibility of imposing liability on an entire industry for harm that is solely caused by others is an abuse of the legal system, erodes public confidence in our Nation's laws, threatens the diminution of a basic constitutional right and civil liberty, sets a poor precedent for other lawful industries, will cause a loss of jobs, and burdens interstate and foreign commerce. S. 397 would help curb frivolous litigation against a lawful American industry and the thousands of workers it employs and would help prevent abuse of the legal system. The bill would also safeguard our national security by preventing frivolous lawsuits against an industry that plays an important role in fulfilling our military's procurement needs. At the same time, the legislation would carefully preserve the right of individuals to have their day in court with civil liability actions. These civil actions are enumerated in the bill and respect the traditional role of the States in the Nation's Federal system with regard to such actions.

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**National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2005**  
A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

September 30, 2005

Domestic violence is a great evil and an offense against human dignity that shatters lives and robs children of their innocence. Where it occurs, homes are transformed into places of danger and despair. During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we renew our commitment to preventing domestic violence.

We are making progress in the fight against violence in the home. Over the past decade, the domestic violence rate has declined by an estimated 59 percent. But much work remains to be done. My Administration remains committed to preventing domestic abuse by supporting victims and punishing offenders. We have secured historic levels of funding for the Violence Against Women programs at the Department of Justice, presided over an increase in Federal prosecutions for crimes of violence against women, and implemented a program to help fund transitional housing for victims fleeing domestic abuse.

To increase access to comprehensive support and services for victims of domestic violence, in 2003 I announced the creation of the Family Justice Center Initiative. These centers bring together police officers, attorneys, counselors, doctors, victims' advocates, chaplains, and others so that domestic violence victims can more easily find the help and support they need. The Department of Justice has awarded over \$20 million to support the creation of 15 Family Justice Centers across the country, and several of these centers have already opened their doors and are making a difference in victims' lives.

Faith-based and community organizations are also making vital contributions in the effort to combat domestic violence. These organizations are fostering an environment where victims can step out of the shadows and get the help and care they need. Through initiatives like the Faith-Based and Community Organization Rural Pilot Program and the Safe and Bright Futures for Children Initiative, the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services are providing funding to support these organizations in their life changing work.

I appreciate all those who work to end domestic violence and to protect vulnerable members of our society. By working together, we continue to build a society that respects the life and dignity of every person.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 October 2005 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to reach out to help victims of domestic violence and help to make ending domestic violence a national priority.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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## **National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2005**

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

November 23, 2005

During National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, we renew our efforts to educate all Americans about the tragic consequences of impaired driving and encourage all Americans to drive responsibly.

Every year, too many of our citizens get behind the wheel of an automobile after drinking alcohol or using drugs. This puts drivers, passengers, and others on the road at risk. Last year alone, drunk driving killed more than 16,000 people and accounted for more than 30 percent of all motor vehicle deaths.

My Administration remains committed to saving lives and preventing injuries resulting from drunk and drugged driving. The Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration oversees the "You Drink & Drive. You Lose." program, which educates our citizens about the dangers of driving under the influence. This campaign also encourages lifesaving measures to help keep impaired drivers off the road including sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols, and prosecution of those who break the law. To protect our Nation's young people and deter underage drinking, the Helping America's Youth initiative, led by First Lady Laura Bush, is promoting positive youth development and educating our children about the dangers associated with alcohol and drug use. With the help of parents, educators, and faith-based and community organizations, this initiative teaches our children to avoid alcohol and drug use, make healthy choices, and build lives of purpose.

Keeping drunk and drugged drivers off the road is vital for the safety of our loved ones and fellow citizens. All Americans can encourage responsible actions and work to ensure that those around them do not operate a vehicle while under the influence. When law enforcement, communities, and individuals unite against impaired driving, lives are saved and our Nation's roadways are made safer for everyone.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 December 2005 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. I encourage all Americans to help keep our Nation's roadways safe by making responsible decisions and taking appropriate measures to prevent drunk and drugged driving.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty second day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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**President Signs H.R. 3402, the "Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005"**

January 5, 2006

On January 5, 2006, the President has signed into law:

H.R. 3402, the "Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005," which reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act for FYs 2007-2011, makes amendments to criminal and immigration law, consolidates major law enforcement grant programs and authorizes appropriations for the Department of Justice for FYs 2006-2009.

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## **National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2006**

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

March 29, 2006

Our society has a responsibility to protect our children and help them thrive. During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we underscore our strong commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect and to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to grow up in safe and nurturing environments.

Parents hold the primary responsibility for a child's health and well-being and provide a foundation of love and support for their children. Parents are not alone as they work to keep their children safe. Helping children requires a commitment from other family members, as well as individuals and organizations in every community. Educators, concerned citizens, faith-based and community organizations, and public officials all have vital roles in protecting our children and supporting families. When children are surrounded by positive relationships and experiences, they are more likely to grow into confident and caring adults.

My Administration remains dedicated to protecting our youth from child abuse and neglect. The Federal Interagency Workgroup on Child Abuse and Neglect, led by the Department of Health and Human Services, provides a forum for Federal agencies to share information and make policy and program recommendations regarding the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Through the National Child Abuse Prevention Initiative, my Administration is partnering with organizations across our country to promote the well-being of children and families and to assist efforts to eradicate abuse.

The Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families hosts the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information website at [www.nccanch.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.nccanch.acf.hhs.gov), which offers more information on how to prevent, recognize, and report signs of child abuse. By working together to provide America's young people the love, guidance, and protection they need, we can help protect our youth from abuse and give them the opportunity to achieve their dreams.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 April 2006 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I encourage all citizens to protect our children and help build strong communities where individuals, families, and children are valued and supported.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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## **National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2006**

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

April 21, 2006

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we underscore our commitment to safeguarding the rights of the victims of crime and their families, and we honor those who bring them hope and comfort.

Behind each crime victim there is a story of trauma, a story of suffering, and a story of lost security. This year's theme, "Victims' Rights: Strength in Unity," emphasizes the importance of joining together to support these individuals and to promote victims' rights and services. With the help of victim service providers, faith-based and community groups, justice professionals, and volunteers, we can work to improve the lives of crime victims across our country.

Violent crime rates have fallen to their lowest levels since the 1970s, and we must continue our progress in the fight against crime and remain dedicated to protecting the rights of crime victims. The Office for Victims of Crime at the Department of Justice (DOJ) provides funding to States for victim assistance programs and supports training on victims' rights for criminal justice professionals. To increase access to comprehensive support and services for victims of domestic violence, the DOJ awarded more than \$20 million to support the creation of 15 Family Justice Centers across the country. Several of these centers have opened and are making a difference in victims' lives. To further ensure basic rights for all victims, we must also ratify a Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

To learn more about victims' rights and how to make a difference, visit [crimevictims.gov](http://crimevictims.gov). All Americans share a responsibility to help victims of crime, and our Nation will continue to work together to achieve justice for victims and build a more hopeful society for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 April 23 through April 29, 2006, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I encourage all Americans to promote awareness of victims' rights and advance this important cause.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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## **Executive Order: 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 effectively 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;
    - (E) the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration Board; and

(F) the Postmaster General; and

(xi) such other officers of the United States as the Attorney General may designate from time to time, with the concurrence of the respective heads of departments and agencies concerned.

(c) The Chairman and Co-Chairman shall convene and preside at the meetings of the Task Force, determine its agenda, direct its work and, as appropriate, establish and direct subgroups of the Task Force that shall consist exclusively of members of the Task Force. Such subgroups may address particular subject matters, such as criminal law enforcement or private sector education and outreach. The Chairman and Co-Chairman may also designate, with the concurrence of the head of department, agency, or instrumentality of which the official is part, such other Federal officials as they deem appropriate for participation in the Task Force subgroups.

(d) A member of the Task Force, including the Chairman and Co-Chairman, may designate, to perform the Task Force or Task Force subgroup functions of the member, any person who is a part of the member's department, agency, or instrumentality and who has high-level policy or operational duties or responsibilities related to the mission of the Task Force.

Sec. 3. Functions of the Task Force. The Task Force, in implementing the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, shall:

(a) review the activities of executive branch departments, agencies, and instrumentalities relating to the policy set forth in section 1, and building upon these prior activities, prepare and submit in writing to the President within 180 days after the date of this order a coordinated strategic plan to further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal Government's activities in the areas of identity theft awareness, prevention, detection, and prosecution;

(b) coordinate, as appropriate and subject to section 5(a) of this order, Federal Government efforts related to implementation of the policy set forth in section 1 of this order;

(c) obtain information and advice relating to the policy set forth in section 1 from representatives of State, local, and tribal governments, private sector entities, and individuals, in a manner that seeks their individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or consensus advice and deliberation and without giving any such person a vote or a veto over the activities or advice of the Task Force;

(d) promote enhanced cooperation by Federal departments and agencies with State and local authorities responsible for the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of significant identity theft crimes, including through avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort and expenditure of resources; and

(e) provide advice on the establishment, execution, and efficiency of policies and activities to implement the policy set forth in section 1:

(i) to the President in written reports from time to time, including recommendations for administrative action or proposals for legislation; and

(ii) to the heads of departments, agencies, and instrumentalities as appropriate from time to time within the discretion of the Chairman and the Co Chairman.

Sec. 4. Cooperation. (a) To the extent permitted by law and applicable presidential guidance, executive departments, agencies, and instrumentalities shall provide to the Task Force such information, support, and assistance as the Task Force, through its Chairman and Co-Chairman, may request to implement this order.

(b) The Task Force shall be located in the Department of Justice for administrative purposes, and to the extent permitted by law, the Department of Justice shall provide the funding and administrative support the Task Force needs to implement this order, as determined by the Attorney General.

Sec. 5. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) authority granted by law to an executive department, agency, or instrumentality or the head thereof; and

(ii) functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

Sec. 6. Termination. Unless the Task Force is sooner terminated by the President, the Attorney General may terminate the Task Force by a written notice of its termination published in the Federal Register.

GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE,

May 10, 2006.

###

## **President Bush Meets with Victims of Identity Theft**

### **The Roosevelt Room**

May 10, 2006

THE PRESIDENT: Identity theft is a serious problem in America. I have just listened to the horror stories from fellow citizens who have had their identities stolen. I listened to their ideas about how the federal government can help in the response in not only dealing with those who commit the crime, but helping those who have been victimized. And I want to thank you all for joining us. Thanks a lot.

I appreciate Al Gonzales and Chairman Majoras, Deb Majoras, of the FTC for being here, because I just signed an executive order that has the Attorney General as the Chairman, the Chairman of the FTC as the Vice-Chairman of a coordinating group to make sure that this government of ours uses our assets in a responsible way, in a good way, to not only put those people who commit identity fraud in jail, but to help the victims of identity fraud.

I've signed two pieces of legislation which are important, one of which says that credit companies must issue a credit report once a year free of charge. We're very serious about upholding the law in this administration, and credit companies must look at the spirit and the letter of that law, so that when citizens ask for the free credit report on an annual basis, he or she should be given that free credit report.

I signed law enhancing penalties. Now what we're going to do is make sure that the 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.

###

## **Fact Sheet: The President's Identity Theft Task Force**

May 10, 2006

**Today, President Bush Signed An Executive Order Creating The Nation's First Ever "Identity Theft Task Force."** This task force will marshal the resources of the Federal government to crack down on the criminals who traffic in stolen identities and protect American families from this devastating crime.

### **The Identity Theft Task Force Is An Important Step Forward In The Fight Against Identity Theft**

**The President's Identity Theft Task Force Reinforces And Intensifies The Administration's Commitment To Deal With Identity Theft.** This task force, chaired by the Attorney General and the FTC Chair, strengthens our efforts to protect the financial information of our citizens.

**The Identity Theft Task Force Enhances Cooperation Of Federal, State, And Local Authorities.** The Task Force will help law enforcement officials investigate and prosecute identity thieves, it will help educate consumers and businesses on ways they can protect themselves, and it will increase the safeguards on personal data held by the Federal government.

### **The Administration Has Been Taking Action To Fight Identity Theft**

**In 2003, President Bush Signed The Fair And Accurate Credit Transactions Act Of 2003 (FACT Act), Which Created A National System Of Fraud Detection.** Among other provisions, the FACT Act:

- **Required Merchants To Delete All But The Last Five Digits Of A Credit Card Number On Store Receipts.**
- **Created A National System Of Fraud Detection So That Consumers Could Issue A Nationwide Fraud Alert With One Phone Call.**
- **Gave Consumers The Right To Receive One Free Credit Report Per Year From Each Of The Nationwide Credit Reporting Agencies.**

**In 2004, President Bush Signed The Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act, Which Gave Law Enforcement New Tools To Prosecute Those Who Violate The Financial Privacy Of American Citizens.** This act created a new crime of "aggravated identity theft" and added two years to prison sentences for criminals convicted of using stolen credit card numbers and other personal data to commit crimes.

### **Identity Theft Harms The American People**

**Identity Theft's Damage Is Widespread.** Citizens work hard to build their credit histories and rely on their credit to help their families build better lives. Since 2003, surveys have estimated the number of U.S. adults who became victims of identity theft within the preceding year at around 10 million, and the annual losses due to identity theft amount to \$50 billion.

- **Identity Theft Can Target Any Demographic Group.** Anyone could be subject to identity theft. It is a crime that can affect anyone at any age, in any income bracket, in any part of the country. It can even involve stealing the identities of the deceased.
- **Identity Theft Harms American Consumers.** A consumer whose identity is stolen may suffer immediate financial harm. For example, he may be denied a loan by a lender who mistakenly thinks that he was responsible for overcharging on credit cards and failing to pay the amounts owed; he may lose money (at least temporarily) from his bank account if the identity thief withdraws cash from that account; and he may even have difficulty in obtaining or holding a job.
- **Identity Theft Harms American Businesses.** Businesses of all sizes can become victims of identity theft. Identity theft also has adverse effects on the economy as a whole by making some people feel less

confident about engaging in electronic transactions and by increasing the costs to consumers as businesses undertake additional measures to protect customers' personal data from identity thieves.

- **Victims Can Suffer More Than Financial Harm.** Individuals may need to spend substantial amounts of time contacting creditors, establishing that they were not responsible for the identity thief's fraudulent transactions and purchases, and getting their credit histories and financial records corrected. Criminals committing identity theft can harm reputations, create greater stress in family life and other relationships, and, on occasion, cause the unwarranted arrest of a victim whose name is being used by the identity thief.

**Nationwide ID Theft Education Campaign To "AvoID Theft: Deter, Detect, Defend"**

**The Federal Trade Commission And The Justice Department Will Send "AvoID Theft: Deter, Detect, Defend" Education Kits To 4,500 Victim Advocates Across The Country.** The U.S. Social Security Administration will involve its field offices. Other partners include the National Association of Realtors, the American College Personnel Association-College Student Educators International, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, the National Crime Prevention Council, the National Apartment Association, and America's Community Bankers.

**Materials In The "AvoID Theft: Deter, Detect, Defend" Education Kit Include A Victim Recovery Guide And A 10-Minute Video On Identity Theft.** All materials are available in English and in Spanish and through a toll-free number (1-877-IDTHEFT) and Web site (<http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>).

###

**Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2006**  
A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

May 11, 2006

Every day, our Nation's dedicated law enforcement officers put themselves at risk to keep their fellow Americans safe. As we observe Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, we pay tribute to the courageous men and women who have lost their lives protecting us, and we honor all those who wear the badge and keep the peace.

The law enforcement officers of today carry on the long and proud tradition of service built by their predecessors. With valor and distinction, these citizens stand watch over us all and work hard to fight crime, violence, and terrorism in communities across America. We are a country built on the rule of law, and our Nation is grateful to the men and women who enforce those laws and uphold the fairness and peace we treasure.

Law enforcement officers deserve our appreciation for the work they do, and citizens fulfill an important civic responsibility by supporting their work to protect our communities. Through organizations like Citizen Corps, men and women are assisting their local police force, fire department, and neighborhood watch program. More information about Citizen Corps volunteer opportunities can be found at [citizencorps.gov](http://citizencorps.gov). I encourage all Americans to help fight crime in their communities by volunteering and participating in crime prevention organizations. By working together, we can achieve a better and more secure future for our children and grandchildren.

On Peace Officers' Memorial Day and during Police Week, we honor the heroism of all our law enforcement officers, especially those who have given their lives so that others might live. They performed their jobs with extraordinary distinction, and a proud and grateful Nation will always remember their service and sacrifice. We ask God's blessings for the families and friends they left behind.

By a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962, as amended, (76 Stat. 676), the Congress has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers' Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week," and by Public Law 103-322, as amended, (36 U.S.C. 136), has directed that the flag be flown at half staff on Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2006, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and May 14 through May 20, 2006, as Police Week. I call on all Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call on Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day. I further encourage all Americans to display the flag at half staff from their homes and businesses on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

7/20/06

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 19, 2006

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: KARL ZINSMEISTER

FROM: TEVI TROY

RE: Civil Rights Follow Up

In the policy time on July 18, 2006, you asked some specific questions on minority participation in Federal contracting, mentoring of children of prisoners, and programs to reduce prisoner recidivism.

**1. Minority Contracting**

**A. Government Wide**

While more African-American businesses are competing for Federal contracts than ever before, in 2005, African-American businesses received only \$3.7 billion, or 1.18% of the \$314 billion Federal total.<sup>1</sup> Minority groups believe it is very difficult for small and minority businesses to break into the Federal contracting process.

Government programs do not offer preferences specifically designated for minorities, but the Small Business Administration's (SBA's) "8(a)" program (which covers only 3.2% of all Federal contracts) sets aside contracts for "socially and economically disadvantaged" business owners, which includes minority owned businesses. The 8(a) program, which tracks ethnicity and gives us a picture of trends in minority participation in Federal procurement, is popular among minority groups. Outside of 8(a) there exists little reliable information on minority participation.

In the 8(a) program, from FY 2000 (FY00) - FY 2005:

- The number of African American businesses participating in the 8(a) program increased 32% (from about 2,600 to about 3,400).
- The number of contracts awarded to African-American businesses participating in the 8(a) program increased 185% (from about 4,300 to about 12,200).
- The value of Federal contract awards to African American businesses increased 168% (from about \$611 million to about \$1.6 billion).
- Overall, 8(a) contracts as a percentage of all government contracting increased 20% (from 2.7% to 3.2%).

<sup>1</sup> Similar figures are not currently available for prior years.

## **B. Katrina**

Ten percent of Katrina contracts have gone to small and disadvantaged businesses. Unfortunately, unofficial government data indicate the percentage of contracts going to African Americans and other minorities is significantly less than their share of the population in that region. NEC staff, in conjunction with the SBA, is preparing recommendations for improving this performance.

### **2. Mentoring of Children of Prisoners (MCP)**

In 2003, you proposed a \$450 million mentoring initiative to reach one million disadvantaged junior high school students and children of prisoners over a three-year period. Your proposal allocated \$300 million for mentoring 900,000 disadvantaged junior high school students (a school-based ED program) and \$150 million for mentoring 100,000 children of prisoners.

To date, only 25,259 matches have been made between at-risk children of prisoners and adult mentors. These matches have been made by 227 MCP grantees. As noted in the policy time, many grantees have had trouble meeting their goals. Several grants to under-performing grantees have been rescinded and funds have been reallocated to more experienced, higher performing grantees.

The program office now believes that MCP will reach the goal of 100,000 matches at the end of the third quarter of FY08. That would be a year behind schedule and an additional cost of \$48 million, resulting in a higher average cost-per-match. The program office is focused on increasing efficiency to reduce costs, and limiting cost-per-match for new grantees.

Another concern is the slow reporting pace on measurable outcomes, especially since the first MCP grantees received funding in FY03. OMB is working with HHS on both short and long term studies to improve the measurement of MCP results.

### **3. Recidivism Programs**

The Attorney General has been highlighting prisoner re-entry programs as one of his 2006 priorities. In February, General Gonzales discussed DOJ's plan to expand the Bureau of Prisons' Life Connections Program and to launch an anti-gang pilot program in six communities<sup>2</sup> with a substantial prisoner re-entry component. The pilot programs provide job placement assistance, transitional housing, and mental and substance abuse treatment and have demonstrated success in reducing unemployment and recidivism among ex-offenders. The Administration requested \$80 million for prisoner reentry programs in FY 2006, but only \$25 million was appropriated. For FY 2007, the Administration has requested \$70 million. Even with funding levels far below the Administration's request, these re-entry programs are showing results. One program, in St. Louis, helped bring down the re-arrest rate among participants one-year after release to 14 percent (the national average is 44 percent). DOL has awarded approximately \$20 million in grants for these pilots (with DOJ providing additional funds).

<sup>2</sup> Anti-Gang Initiative allocated \$500,000 to each of six communities: Cleveland, Dallas-Ft Worth, E. Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Tampa, and "222 Corridor" between Lancaster and Easton, PA.

## **President Applauds Senate for Approving Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006**

July 21, 2006

I applaud members of the United States Senate for voting to strengthen our laws against convicted sex offenders.

The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 will ensure appropriate sentencing for sex offenders and will provide local law enforcement officials with the tools they need to track those who prey upon children. By supporting this legislation, the Senate has taken an important step towards providing our country with a strict, uniform system for monitoring sex offenders to ensure that they do not commit additional crimes against our Nation's children.

I urge the House of Representatives to pass this good legislation as quickly as possible, so that I can sign it into law.

###

## **President Signs H.R. 4472, the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006**

The Rose Garden

July 27, 2006

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all for coming. Please be seated. Welcome and good afternoon. In a few moments I will sign the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. Twenty-five years ago today, Adam Walsh was abducted from a department store and he was later found murdered. In the years since, his parents, John and Rev Walsh, have become advocates for missing children. They've helped combat child abduction and exploitation across this country. And the bill I sign today will strengthen federal laws to protect our children from sexual and other violent crimes, will help prevent child pornography, and will make the Internet safer for our sons and daughters. I want to thank you all for joining us today, and thank you for your tireless crusade. (Applause.)

I'm pleased to be up here with the Attorney General, Al Gonzales. I want to thank all the members of the House and the Senate who have joined us. John, as you can see, you've attracted quite a crowd here.

MR. WALSH: S.W.A.T. team for kids.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it is, S.W.A.T. team for kids.

I appreciate very much the bill sponsors who have joined us, and the committee chairmen and the leadership that has made this bill possible. This is a good piece of bipartisan legislation, and I'm really going to be proud to sign it.

I want to thank all the family members of victims who have joined us today. I particularly want to say hello to Elizabeth Smart and Amie Zyla. Thank you all for coming.

You know, having someone harm your child is one of the worst nightmares a parent could face. And the families who have joined us today have felt that pain firsthand. In your suffering and loss, many of you have found the courage to become advocates for the safety of other children. Because of your efforts, this important measure is going to become the law of the land, and the children of parents you may never meet will be spared the anguish your families have known. So thank you for your contribution.

Protecting our children is our solemn responsibility. It's what we must do. When a child's life or innocence is taken it is a terrible loss -- it's an act of unforgivable cruelty. Our society has a duty to protect our children from exploitation and danger. By enacting this law we're sending a clear message across the country: those who prey on our children will be caught, prosecuted and punished to the fullest extent of the law.

I appreciate working with Congress in the past to give law enforcement the tools they need to go after criminals who kidnap and exploit children. In 2003, I signed the PROTECT Act, that expanded the use of Amber Alerts, that makes grants to all 50 states so law enforcement can quickly alert the public about missing children and their abductors. We also launched Operation Predator to help law enforcement track down and arrest foreign pedophiles and human traffickers and sex tourists and Internet pornographers who prey on our children.

Earlier this year, the Department of Justice, led by Al Gonzales, launched Project Safe Childhood to help federal, state and local enforcement officials investigate and prosecute crimes against children that are facilitated by the Internet and other electronic communications.

This new law I sign today builds on the progress in four important ways: First, the bill I sign today will greatly expand the National Sex Offender Registry by integrating the information in state sex offender registry systems and ensuring that law enforcement has access to the same information across the United States. It seems to make sense, doesn't it? See, these improvements will help prevent sex offenders from evading detection by moving from one state to the next. Data drawn from this comprehensive registry will also be made available to the public so parents have the information they need to protect their children from sex offenders that might be in their neighborhoods.

Second, the bill I sign today will increase federal penalties for crimes against children. This bill imposes tough mandatory minimum penalties for the most serious crimes against our children. It increases penalties for crimes such

as sex trafficking of children and child prostitution; provides grants to states to help them institutionalize sex offenders who've shown they cannot change their behavior and are about to be released from prison.

Third, the bill I sign today will make it harder for sex predators to reach our children on the Internet. Some sex predators use this technology to make contact with potential victims, so the bill authorizes additional new regional Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces. These task forces provides funding and training to help state and local law enforcement combat crimes involving the sexual exploitation of minors on the Internet.

Fourth, the bill I sign today will help prevent child abuse by creating a National Child Abuse Registry, and requiring investigators to do background checks on adoptive and foster parents before they approve to take custody of a child. By giving child protective service professionals in all 50 states access to this critical information, we will improve their ability to investigate child abuse cases and help ensure that the vulnerable children are not put into situations of abuse or neglect.

This is a comprehensive piece of legislation, and it's an important bill. Our nation grieves with every family that's suffered the unbearable pain of a child who's been abducted or abused. This law makes an important step forward in this country's efforts to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

I thank you for coming for witness to this. It's now my high honor to sign the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. (Applause.)

(The bill is signed.) (Applause.)

###

## **Fact Sheet: The Adam Walsh Child Protection And Safety Act Of 2006**

July 27, 2006

**Today, President Bush Signed The Adam Walsh Child Protection And Safety Act Of 2006.** This law marks an important step forward in our Nation's efforts to protect those who cannot protect themselves. It will strengthen Federal laws to protect our children from sexual and other violent crimes, prevent child pornography, and make the Internet safer for our sons and daughters.

**President Bush Believes Our Society Has A Duty To Protect Children From Exploitation And Danger.** By enacting this law, we are sending a clear message across the country that those who prey on our children will be caught, prosecuted, and punished to the fullest extent of the law.

**The Administration Has Worked To Give Law Enforcement New Tools To Go After Criminals Who Kidnap And Exploit Children.**

- **The PROTECT Act.** In 2003, President Bush signed the PROTECT Act that expanded the use of Amber Alerts, making grants available to all 50 States so law enforcement can quickly alert the public about missing children and their abductors.
- **Operation Predator.** The Administration launched Operation Predator to help law enforcement track down and arrest foreign pedophiles, human traffickers, sex tourists, and Internet pornographers who prey on our children.
- **Project Safe Childhood.** Earlier this year, the Department of Justice launched Project Safe Childhood to help Federal, State, and local law enforcement investigate and prosecute crimes against children that are facilitated by the Internet and other electronic communications.

### **The Adam Walsh Child Protection And Safety Act Of 2006 Builds On The Administration's Progress In Four Important Ways:**

1. **Expanding The National Sex Offender Registry.** The bill will integrate the information in State sex offender registry systems and ensure that law enforcement has access to the same information across the United States, helping prevent sex offenders from evading detection by moving from State to State. Data drawn from this comprehensive registry will be made available to the public so parents have the information they need to help protect their children from sex offenders.
2. **Strengthening Federal Penalties For Crimes Against Children.** The bill imposes tough mandatory minimum penalties for the most serious crimes against children and increases penalties for crimes such as sex trafficking of children and child prostitution. It also provides grants to States to help them institutionalize sex offenders who have shown they cannot change their behavior and are about to be released from prison.
3. **Making It Harder For Sex Predators To Reach Our Children On The Internet.** The bill authorizes new regional Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforces that will provide funding and training to help State and local law enforcement combat crimes involving the sexual exploitation of minors on the Internet.

**Creating A New National Child Abuse Registry And Requiring Investigators To Do Background Checks Of Adoptive And Foster Parents Before They Are Approved To Take Custody Of A Child.** By giving child protective service professionals in all 50 States access to this critical information, we will improve their ability to investigate child abuse cases and help ensure that vulnerable children are not put into situations of abuse or neglect.

###

## **National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2006**

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

September 29, 2006

Domestic violence has no place in our society, and we have a moral obligation to help prevent it. The terrible tragedies that result from it destroy lives and insult the dignity of women, men, and children. National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an opportunity to underscore our commitment to bringing an end to violence in the home.

A home should be a place of stability, comfort, and love. Domestic violence shatters this important foundation. My Administration is strongly committed to addressing domestic violence and helping those who have been victimized. In January, I was proud to sign legislation reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. Since I announced the Family Justice Center Initiative in 2003, we have opened 11 Family Justice Centers across the country. These centers offer services to victims and their families, including legal advice, counseling, and support. In addition, we are continuing to work with faith-based and community organizations to provide training, expertise, and funding to help deliver hope and healing to those who need it most.

During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and throughout the year, we are grateful for the advocates, counselors, and others who provide care to those affected by these acts of cruelty and for the law enforcement personnel and others who work to bring offenders to justice. We extend our compassion to the victims of domestic violence and urge them to seek assistance through local Family Justice Centers, faith-based and community organizations, and the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1 800-799-SAFE. By working together, we can build an America where every home honors the value and dignity of its loved ones.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 October 2006 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to reach out to victims and help end domestic violence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

## **President Bush Participates in Panel on School Safety**

National 4-H Conference Center

Chevy Chase, Maryland

October 10, 2006

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you all for coming. In many ways, I'm sorry we're having this meeting. In other ways, I know how important it is that we're having this meeting. The violence that has been occurring in our schools is incredibly sad and it troubles a lot of folks. And it troubled me and Laura. And so I asked Margaret and Al to host a gathering of concerned citizens, the purpose of which is to come up with best practices and just shared experiences so that others might know how to react to prevent and react to inexplicable and -- violence that is hard to imagine.

All of us in this country want our classrooms to be gentle places of learning, places where people not only learn the basics -- basic skills necessary to become productive citizens, but learn to relate to one another. And our parents I know want to be able send their child or children to schools that are safe places. And the violence we've seen is upsetting to a lot of people and I know it's upsetting to the professionals who are with us. But rather than be upset, it's best for all of us who are responsible for helping the folks not only cope, but to prevent action from taking place, it's best to be proactive. And that's what this meeting is.

And so I want to thank you all for joining. I got a firsthand report on one of the panels from Laura, who said that -- I think if I could summarize your words, it was like really interesting and very important. And so I thought what I would do is ask Al and Margaret to begin this session and maybe hear from some of the folks here, and then, if time permitting, hear from you all out in the audience.

Again, I want to thank Margaret and Al for setting this up, and really thank you all for coming and taking an interest. I know we got people from all around the country, and it's -- this is a nationwide effort to help people who are responsible protect our children.

ATTORNEY GENERAL GONZALES: Mr. President, thank you for asking Margaret and I to host this important conference. We've had some good panel discussions, as you've already heard already. You've met some of the panelists we've invited back. And just for our audience, again, we've asked Dr. Marleen Wong, Craig Scott, Fred Ellis, and Sheriff Jeff Dawsy to help us speak with the President about this important issue.

Mr. President, I'm going to talk a bit about the panel that I moderated which dealt with the scope of the problem from the law enforcement perspective.

Margaret is going to talk to you a little bit about the two other panels that we've heard from today -- one dealing with responding to the tragedy, prepared for the tragedy at the parent level and the school level. And the other is how do communities heal, how do they recover from these kinds of tragedies.

With respect to the first panel, the good news we heard was that, generally, America's schools are safe places to be. Your kids are much more likely to be safer in school than they are at the mall. And that's the good news. We are, however, are seeing some indications in the last two years that those trends are changing. And so that's something that we want to watch very carefully, monitor that and see what can be done to reverse it, if, in fact, that is a trend that we need to be worried on.

We also learned that the U.S. Secret Service and other federal agencies are doing a lot of good work already in dealing with this issue. The Secret Service, in particular, has been working on a threat assessment guide that they make available. And there is someone in the audience that I would like to have come to the microphone. He is Police Chief Art Kelly from New Bedford, Massachusetts, and he wants to relay to you an example where he relied upon the information by the Secret Service in an actual case.

THE PRESIDENT: I like the Secret Service, too, Art. (Laughter and applause.)

\* \* \* \* \*

THE PRESIDENT: Let me ask you a question, Al -- not you, Chief, but -- well, I can ask you, too. I presume out of this there will be a series of best practices that you will share with principals and schools districts that explain, for example, what people could look for to determine whether or not there's an early warning sign, and then how to respond.

ATTORNEY GENERAL GONZALES: Exactly.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, good. Thanks, Chief.

ATTORNEY GENERAL GONZALES: Mr. President, we also heard from Tom Kube, of the Council of Educational Facility Planners, who talked to us about school design, and that the way we design our schools can be helpful in protecting our children.

We had an interesting discussion about metal detectors. Some of the panel members -- they don't believe it's an effective tool preventing violence; one in five school shootings occur outside the school building, so they couldn't help in any event. Our students, as we know, are very smart and resourceful and they figure out a way to avoid metal detectors. Also one panel member said that it sends the wrong message about what we think of our kids when we have them come to an environment where they're supposed to learn and have to pass through metal detectors. So I found that to be very, very interesting.

THE PRESIDENT: I happen to agree, but what I do know? (Laughter.)

ATTORNEY GENERAL GONZALES: Yes, sir. We also then spent a lot of time talking about information sharing. This is very, very important, in terms of gathering up information and being able to share it with not just parents, but administrators, events happening at home. And I'd like Sheriff Dawsy to talk a little bit about this point.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE PRESIDENT: Is there an opportunity to share between sheriffs around the country how they're dealing with this issue? Does it make sense to have the National Sheriff's Association contact -- ask for stories, practices, and then condense them and send them back out so that people can -- who probably aren't listening to this will be able to --

SHERIFF DAWSY: I think it would be a wonderful initiative. One of the things I learned today was not more about questions, but more of solutions. There was many different speakers that came up and told us about different resources to use.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that's my point.

ATTORNEY GENERAL GONZALES: Mr. President, I think that Sheriff Dawsy would say that this program helps him to do his job, which means that I'm sure all the sheriffs around the country would like that kind of program, as well, to help them do their job.

THE PRESIDENT: That's my point. Yes, so who is responsible for talking to the head of the Sheriff's Association or the police chiefs to make sure that happens?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm right here, sir, and it will be done.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, sir. Very good.

ATTORNEY GENERAL GONZALES: Sir, one final point I would just like to emphasize, and that is, there are many schools that have plans in terms of how to deal with a threat or an incident that occurs, but the plans are worthless if people don't know about them, if they're not dusted off, if people don't practice them. And as the Secretary indicated earlier this morning, there's a lot of turnover that occurs in the school between the faculty, the administration, between students and families. And it's very, very important for schools to understand what the plans are and to practice those plans. It made a big difference two weeks ago in terms of the shooting in Bailey, Colorado, where they were able to respond in a very effective manner to that tragedy. And so that's a very important thing that needs to be emphasized over and over again.

There were many other points that we discussed, Mr. President, and I think we made some good progress in this area.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Al.

SECRETARY SPELLINGS: Thank you, Mr. President. That's a good place to begin on panel number two -- we call this in education a teachable moment, because we have plans, lots of work has been done post-9/11, post-Katrina and other incidents, but if parents, teachers and faculty are not aware of what's been done, then they're worthless. And so on panel two we talked a lot about readiness. We talked about how to create a school culture that was supportive and nurturing, that when young people have connections with adults, caring adults, how important that is; how there are signs to watch for; that a lack of academic success and other things like the Sheriff talked about are clues, that are ways that we might intervene.

We also talked about the need for constant communication and coordination between school personnel and law enforcement. We talked about how every community is unique and individualized, that those are decisions and discussions that have to happen at the local level. So we also figured out ways or talked about ways to continue to develop those relationships and strategies around those sorts of things.

Fred Ellis, who is the head of school safety in Fairfax County, my school district, and is also a member of my commission that's part of the No Child Left Behind Act, the Commission on Safe and Drug-Free Schools -- Fred serves on that. We'll be meeting in the next few weeks and giving them some new charges that came out of our meeting today. But I'd like Fred to speak about some of the things that he's experienced.

Fairfax County is considered to be one of the national models, national leaders in this area. So, Fred, thank you for your work.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE PRESIDENT: Did you say 81 percent of the students were aware of a violent act?

MR. ELLIS: Some of the data that I had heard today from the Secret Service and some of their research, that much information was out there.

THE PRESIDENT: It seems like a pretty good opportunity to prevent an attack if 81 percent of the -- there's an 81 percent awareness of a potential attack, which then I guess would lead to making sure principals explain to students, when you hear something, please tell me.

MR. ELLIS: Yes, sir. I think that's part of the point, is that there needs to be a culture, a climate in a school where students and faculty and staff and visitors feel comfortable with reporting stuff. Particularly at the student level, because we know that they do talk about it, but they have to have -- they have to feel comfortable that, one, they know where to go to report this information, and that there's going to be a useful and successful outcome and intervention to prevent some violence.

SECRETARY SPELLINGS: We also heard from a gentleman named Jim Moore, who founded a program called Project Watch D.O.G.S., which is basically dads coming into schools and being role models, modeling good behavior and being a presence. Another way that we can kind of be alert for behavioral patterns and the like is to make sure that we have as many grown-ups in schools as we possible can.

So, Jim, thank you for your work. He's from Arkansas -- actually, he's from La Mesa.

Anyway, in panel three we talked about recovery and healing, and how it takes time. And we learned from our professionals, like Marleen Wong, who I've had the opportunity to get to know as she helped us and helped communities on the Gulf Coast deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. She's been an asset to the Department of Education in our work for a very long time. And she's from Los Angeles, works at the LA Unified School District.

We know also that these sorts of incidents can occur in inner-city America and Amish communities, private schools, public schools -- really every single community has to be alert. So, Marleen, why don't you talk a little bit about your work in Los Angeles.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE PRESIDENT: Is it typical of a student that expresses a wish to die, makes that clear to his or her peers and to -- if people are attuned to what that means, to pay attention to somebody who exhibits the behavior that says, I am depressed and I want to die? I mean, is it -- it's a pretty strong statement.

DR. WONG: It's a wonderful question, because there are -- there are behaviors and there are expressions of hopelessness that come before that. And so I think we have to do a lot of education with just folks who say, you know, they've changed, they don't have joy in life, and that this is an early warning sign.

THE PRESIDENT: But is it easy to define the behavior that would tip off an adult in a school, or some -- a coach or an art teacher that this is the kind of behavior that ought to say to us, we better pay attention to this person, this child?

DR. WONG: Yes. There's a short list, and actually, the student who sat on the previous panel did an excellent job of naming all of those things. I was so proud of her. I thought she ought to come and do some training with our --

THE PRESIDENT: And how many educators do you think that can name -- good job, by the way -- how many adults do you think around the schools in America can name the traits that would say, we better pay attention to this person?

DR. WONG: Not enough.

THE PRESIDENT: And therefore, what can we do to make sure that people understand what to look for? It seems like to me that a lot of our focus ought to be on preventing. And no question, we ought to worry about recovering, but preventing is -- makes the recovering not necessary.

SECRETARY SPELLINGS: Chiarasay, you did such a nice job this morning, why don't you go to the microphone real quick and tell us the nine signs -- (applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Where are you from Chiarasay?

MS. PERKINS: Mr. President, I'm from Walton County, Florida.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. I know your Governor. (Laughter.)

MS. PERKINS: Some of the traits that are noticeable are changes in everyday habits. If you know friends -- stuff like playing sports, he won't play sports; grade averages dropping; they start acting different they start eating different, dressing different, carrying themselves in a different manner as you would normally know them -- are just some of the small things that you as a friend or as a teacher or parent could notice that will bring upon a change in the case if they are depressed, or feeling as though they want to commit suicide, or hurt somebody or themselves.

THE PRESIDENT: That's great. Thank you.

DR. WONG: Thank you. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Let me ask you a question. From your experience, Marleen, if a teacher were to notice those traits, is it typical that someone would act on them? In other words, I'm just trying to make sure I understand. If a student sees -- I mean, a teacher sees a student begin to change clothes and begin to -- does a principal and a teacher tend to say, well, that's really not my business, it's the parents' business? In other words, awareness requires, by the way, some kind of response.

DR. WONG: And I think that varies around the country.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I'm sure it does.

DR. WONG: I think that more and more people are beginning to pay attention just because we have paid such a dear price for ignoring some of the warning signs.

THE PRESIDENT: So maybe an outcome for this is to encourage -- for you to get in touch with the principals organizations or the teachers organizations and help --

SECRETARY SPELLINGS: And be aware of the warning signs.

THE PRESIDENT: And then -- I guess there's a certain confidence that has to come with interfering -- not interfering, but interceding in a child's life. My only question is, is there hesitancy when an adult says, well, maybe this is just the way it's supposed to be, or maybe it's none of my business. And the question is if that's the case -- if you can determine that's the case, how do you get people to respond differently?

SECRETARY SPELLINGS: Cathy Paine, from Oregon, told us about -- where they had an incident there, that there were dozens of signs of this particular shooter, and that the full picture didn't become clear until after the incident.

THE PRESIDENT: Can you -- do you mind sharing that? Thanks, Cathy.

MS. PAINE: Thank you, Mr. President. I was a school psychologist in Springfield, Oregon when the shooting happened there in 1998. And the point I was making was that for our shooter, yes, there were things that individuals knew about him; his parents knew some things, teachers saw a few things, but at no time was there a way for all of those people, in a sense, to get together and share that entire picture. So 20-20 hindsight has been very good, and we've been able to say, ah-hah and see how all that fit together.

But because of -- whether it's lack of resources or lack of knowledge, we didn't have a mechanism for that to happen. We're trying to do a better job with that now, in forming what we call care teams in our schools where teachers regularly do get together and share concerns about students, and then we try to connect them with our mental health services in the community.

THE PRESIDENT: The whole purpose of this exercise is to help educate and, if there needs to be cultural change inside schools, for teachers to become more aware and more active -- or principals -- is to try to stimulate these kinds of discussions, obviously, outside of Washington, at the local level or state levels, in the hopes of preventing these from happening in the first place.

Thank you for coming to share your experience and appreciate you're sharing your expertise.

SECRETARY SPELLINGS: One of the people who's been doing that in a very meaningful way is Craig Scott, who has talked all over the country to teenagers and teachers and educators and school leaders. And he has a very powerful story, as you know. His sister, Rachel, was murdered in Columbine.

So, Craig, why don't you share your thoughts.

MR. SCOTT: Well, just to give a little background, I was in the school library during the shooting. I had 10 classmates that were killed around me. I lost two friends underneath a table, and then later that same day learned that my sister, Rachel Joy Scott, was the first one that was killed. And really I've been just now traveling over the last seven years just sharing a simple story of compassion. And it's had a huge impact on the school culture. Kids really have looked to her as a role model. She's been a hero to a lot of kids.

And last night I just was looking back over the last seven years and I was in my hotel room and I just journaled, and I wanted to express real quick over the next couple minutes, just read to you what I wrote in my journal that expresses my feelings best.

I said: Once upon a time, our goal of education in our country was, first and foremost, character. Academic achievement is now the main goal. I knew two students at Columbine that achieved the goal of knowledge. Eric Harris and Dylan Kleibold were very smart. They planned the shooting for a year and predicted the events that

would unfold afterwards. The problem wasn't their education at my school, Columbine. Their problem was their character.

I've grown up in a culture today that doesn't teach me anything of substance, of value, how it bombards me every day with messages of emptiness and shallowness. And the youth are crying for something to stand for, something to believe in. If it weren't for my faith or my family, I possibly could have fallen into the lies that our culture tells us. But now I've traveled, I've spoken to over a million teens across this country. I've not always seen -- I've not always liked what I've seen in the schools. I've seen depression, anger and loneliness, students without direction or purpose. I've seen students who called themselves cutters, have cut themselves because that's the way they know to take out the pain that they're dealing with. I've learned a lot about my generation. And I've learned a lot since I lost my friends and my sister. And the main thing I've learned is that kindness and compassion can be the biggest antidotes to anger and hatred, and I believe the biggest antidotes to violence.

With the program my father started called, Rachel's Challenge, a program my mom speaks for called, Life Choices, we've seen bullying stopped, suicides aborted. We have 10 incidents where a student came up with hit lists or plans to shoot up his or her -- his school, all male -- and told either the speaker or told the teacher about their plans, but had a change of heart. As a side-effect, we've seen -- and our statistics have shown and the more our program -- has been a rise in school attendance and an increase in academic achievement.

How have we done it? We've done it with a simple story of a young girl who believed in compassion and was killed for her faith. That was the story of Rachel Joy Scott. But my sister is not the only one who believes in kindness, and she's not been the only one in her brave stance against the injustice willing to stand up for the one who gets put down in school, to sit by the student that sits all alone at lunch, and to talk to or reach out to the one who is consistently ignored or made fun of. She literally has inspired millions of people to continue the chain reaction she started. A lot of those are students across the country.

I've read Eric Harris and Dylan Kleibold's journals that were recently released, and basically Eric wrote in one of his journals, "If only you were nicer to me, maybe this wouldn't have happened."

I don't know who else is tired of band-aid answers, but I know band-aids aren't going to save kids from dying. I give every student out there a challenge my sister put down on paper a month before she died when she wrote for her class -- she said, "I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go."

I challenge every teacher, principal and superintendent and educator here today to take a look at teaching that doesn't just teach the head, but teaches the heart. The students today that I've met are looking for truth. You can help point them to what's right and what's wrong. Truth is not all relative, despite what our culture or pop culture tells us.

To parents in the room today, please love your kids like my parents love me, like my parents loved Rachel. To the media and entertainment industry, I would give the challenge to take responsibility, own up to the product -- (applause) -- own up to the product that you create and the effect that it has on its audience, that two shooters were very much impacted and influenced by violence through the media and dwelled on violent video games, violent movies, music, and things they saw through the Internet, and is a common theme with a lot of these shooters that they've chosen very negative influences in their life. I believe there needs to be the positive influences that are highlighted on our television and through our media.

You're a powerful institution affecting my generation every day. Please think about, when releasing your next movie, your next song, your next game, your next headline story. I myself am a film maker, and I want to create movies that inspire, build people up with stories of ennobling characters.

To the lawmakers and politicians who want to slap those band-aids on deep, gaping wounds, I'm simply going to repeat a poem that my dad read to the House Judiciary of Congress several months after the Columbine shooting where he said:

"Your laws ignore our deepest needs

Your words are empty air.

You've stripped away our heritage

You've outlawed simple prayer.

Now gunshots fill our classrooms

and precious children die.

You seek for answers everywhere

and ask the question why.

You regulate restrictive law

through legislative creed,

and yet you failed to understand

that God is what we need."

I'm not promoting that religion be brought back to schools. I don't believe that's the answer. But I do believe in education that touches and teaches the heart and helps form the character. And I believe if that can be implemented in the education on a daily basis, we'll see a change. I'm not out to change the world, just to change one person, one teen at a time. And I've finished with, just please take my words to heart today. They were bought at a high price. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Good job. (Applause.) Whew. (Applause.) Which one of us up here can now talk after that? Thank you. Yes, that's great. You are changing our society. You may not realize it, but thank you -- powerful statement.

I'd be glad to hear from people in the audience. (Laughter.) Yes, I probably won't be able to hear from all of you in the audience.

That was great, Craig. Thank you. Could I have that?

MR. SCOTT: Oh, absolutely.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Yes, sir.

Q Mr. President, I haven't had this feeling since I was 17 and that's the last time that I asked you a question in Herbert, Texas. I've spoken to hundreds of thousands of people since. Last time I was nervous was when I was 17 in Herbert, Texas, and you were campaigning in Herbert, Texas.

THE PRESIDENT: Don't tell them I came in second place in a two-man race. (Laughter.)

Q My name is Pete Vargas. I'm the national director for Rachel's Challenge, the program --

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, fantastic, Pete.

Q -- that Craig just talked about. And I want to echo something that's very dear to my heart and Darrel, his father who is sitting right here.

THE PRESIDENT: Your dad is there? Where is your dad? Excuse me. Okay, thank you. Raised a good man here.

Q I talk to thousands of educators every month, our team does, thousands. And one of the things that disturbs me is there's hundreds that say, Pete, you all have change the culture of our school, but then there's thousands that say, it's so hard for us to fit our -- we want your program so bad, but we have testing and testing and testing and this and that, and it made me think about something, President. It made me think about growing up -- I was going the wrong direction completely. I was stealing, I was doing everything possibly wrong -- vandalism, beating up kids. And in

7th grade there was a teacher, Mrs. Muldanado, who touched my heart. In 10th grade there was a lady that you know from Herbert, Texas, that touched my heart. And in ninth grade my tennis coach touched my heart, and those three people changed my life. And as we -- why I believe in what I'm doing so much is Darrel's motto is that if we touch the heart of the kid, the head will follow. If we touch their heart, the head will follow, and the hands will make the difference.

My question to you today is, I don't want us to look at the warning signs; I want us to eliminate the warning signs.

THE PRESIDENT: Right, right.

Q What can we do -- what can we do, and this is echoing Darrel and what Craig just said -- what can we do from the government's standpoint to go back to touching the heart of the kid, to teaching character education? Because we hear that all the time about the testing.

THE PRESIDENT: I agree. Pete, let me say -- first on the tests. Thanks for coming. It's good to see you again. I was probably more nervous than you were when you asked the question. (Laughter.)

Q You look the same. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I like selected memory. (Laughter.)

First, in terms of testing, I don't think it's zero sum. I think you can make sure a child learns and I think you can instill character at the same time. I don't think you have to choose. As a matter of fact, I know we can't say that one doesn't beget the other. I happen to believe that self-esteem comes when a child realizes he or she can read early at grade level. And I think one of the real problems -- I think one of the real problems we have, Pete, is a school system across the country that basically gives up on children because we don't measure to determine whether or not they have the skills necessary to read, for example.

And so I'm concerned about a system that socially promotes children, because I think that at some point in time, that begins to affect a child's vision of the future, and a grim vision of the future may be that which triggers a response that is negative.

Character education is -- I know we funded quite a bit of it when I was the governor of Texas. Let me put the funding issue right on the table. The federal government is a limited funder of education. And I happen to believe that's the way it should be. I don't think it's possible for the people to have expectations that the government should fund public schools. This is a local responsibility. It's been that way throughout our history. I think it makes sense to do so, because it tends to make control of our schools more localized, which I happen to think is the best way to achieve excellence.

And so, therefore, not to try to pass responsibilities, although we do have character education grants out of Washington, and we've got school safety grants out of Washington, but the best place to facilitate that kind of initiative, to make sure that character is taught in schools, is at the state level.

Secondly, it's really important, Pete, that people not think government is a loving entity. Government is law and justice. Love comes from the hearts of people that are able to impart love. And therefore, what Craig is doing is -- he doesn't realize it -- he's a social entrepreneur. He is inspiring others to continue to reach out to say to somebody who is lonely, I love you. And I'm afraid this requires a higher power than the federal government to cause somebody to love somebody. And therefore, it's a -- (applause) -- and therefore, one of the things we can do, though, is to call upon people -- we've got the USA Freedom Corps Initiative, for example, that calls on volunteers to take active participation in their communities.

You know, Craig said something interesting. I believe societies change one heart at a time. I don't mean to mimic what you said, but I was actually praising what you said, because that's how it works. And the truth of the matter is, if we really think about it, the primary responsibility, the primary teacher of character is the parent. That is the front line of enabling our society to be a compassionate, decent place. You wouldn't be sitting here if your mother and father hadn't instilled in you a -- something inside your soul that caused you to sit here in front of the President of the United States and give an unbelievably eloquent testimony about compassion.

And the second line of defense in schools is, obviously, teachers. And the hope is, is that out of this violence and terror comes this notion that teachers have got to be -- and by the way, the teachers have got an unbelievably hard job to not only teach, but to show concern and compassion. They've got their own lives to live, they've got their own families to raise many times, and now they've got to deal with yet another family situation, Pete. But yet, nevertheless, that is where the compassion -- you notice, you didn't say, I went to a program. You named three individuals that were heroic in your lives. And that's the way it works.

Now, teaching character matters, no question about it, and there's some great curriculum to do it. But the truth of the matter is, all this need to say, I love you, comes from your soul. And so, hopefully, out of these tragedies will come the sense of communal obligation all throughout our country, for people to take an extra effort to comfort the lonely. That could be a student or a teacher -- Pete, in your case, a tennis coach. Still got a backhand? Anyway, thank you, buddy. It's good to see you again.

Yes, ma'am. Oh, yes, sir.

Q Up until yesterday, I was a Walt Disney imagineer for 16 years, but I have quit that activity to commit myself for the rest of my life to a character education program that my sister and her husband and I created 15 years ago, on a little island in the Pacific Northwest, called The Virtues Project. And it is exactly what I think many people are looking for, because it reaches the heart, it is a multi-faith, multi-cultural effort to simply teach five strategies that help people practice virtues in everyday life.

What we've learned in 85 countries where this is applied is that values are culture specific; virtues are universal to every sacred tradition. So simply practicing virtues in the home, in the school, in the workplace makes a shift in the culture.

And I am offering my love and my admiration for so many goodwilled people in this room for bringing this group of people together. It's so exciting. And we're simply here to support whatever is going on.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, thanks for doing what you're doing. See, this is a -- our country is blessed by the fact that we have people who stand up and say, I want to contribute, like you. Just retired yesterday? You don't look a day over 60. Anyway. (Laughter.)

But, see, Craig, what you're doing and what this gentleman is doing will stimulate a lot of -- as you said, you've talked to a million kids, or a million people -- same with you, sir. I believe that there is no single answer, no single program. It's a mosaic of programs all stimulated because people have decided to do something about the problem. And it's really the uniqueness of the country.

I like to remind our fellow citizens that de Tocqueville recognized this in 1832, the fact that voluntary organizations came together to help solve local problems. And it is -- in my judgment, it is this capacity of citizens to take action to solve problems that defines the true greatness of America.

And, Pete, to answer your question about government, government's role, in many ways, is to stimulate and to encourage and to thank people who have taken it upon themselves to either start character education, or go into classrooms and to change society one person at a time.

Yes, sir.

Q Mr. President, my name is Marvin Nash. I represent the Bullying Hurts Program, and the NASH Foundation, which stands for "No Adolescent Should Hurt," from Cheyenne, Wyoming. I want to let you know that I will be traveling back to Nashville, Tennessee, where Storme Warren, with Great American Country, and Charlie Daniels will be helping me make PSAs to address this issue. Instead of talking about my program, I want to give my time up to this lady right here. She spent seven -- she spent her time with 17 students locked in a closet at Columbine, and she has a question for you. So we're not going to talk about me, we're going to talk about her.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, buddy. Nice-looking hat.

Q Mr. President, Madam Secretary of Education, Marleen, Craig, and everybody else, my name is Judy -- I'm just a regular person. I don't have a radio talk show. (Laughter.) And I don't -- I'm not in charge of a big major

organization. I am a flight attendant for Frontier Airlines, and I'm shaking right now because I didn't think I was going to get up here. And I'm also a proud, retired teacher from Columbine High School.

And I think everything I was going to say just kind of flew out of my mind. I'm also a professional volunteer. And I am not here to ask for money for any program. When I said, professional volunteer I don't mean I make money volunteering, but there are a whole group of just regular people like me out there. Even though I retired from Columbine, I have a daughter at Columbine right now who is a junior. I volunteer in the post-grad center there. I volunteer with the cheer squad, the football team, and it doesn't always take a lot of money to get things done. It's little people like me. I don't mean in size. I mean, it's little people like me who get there, little people like us. Like Grand Daddy Wong used to say, okay, one stick, you break it one at a time, but if we stick together, we can get it done.

I'm just saying unless us volunteers -- I always have time to volunteer, and I know other people do, too, and it's what Craig was saying, it comes from the heart. President Bush, it's what you were saying. It's what our parents taught us, and it's what we need to teach our kids. It's that -- I hope I don't pronounce it wrong -- generativity, where we help to make the next generation better. So I'm sorry I forgot what my question was. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: What matters is your testimony, not your question. Thank you. (Applause.)

Last question, and I've got to go. He's also reminding me, actually I'm on a schedule here. I apologize. I'd like to sit here all day, listening, and I am inspired that so many came to talk about this subject.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Good afternoon, Mr. President, Madam Secretary. I'm a youth programs director in New York City for a nonprofit called Art of Living Foundation. And like a lot of these wonderful people here, we teach a program in human values and stress management for teenagers and how to handle their negative emotions, which they just don't learn I'm finding nowadays. And what I have students constantly asking me is, can't this be a class in our school? Can we learn human values and universal ethics that are found in every culture, but they're not being taught -- a lot of times not at home, they're not being taught. And they're definitely not always being taught in schools. There's some amazing public school teachers, but there's also some very stressed-out public school teachers.

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely.

Q Can this be -- is there a way to have a class in public school where students learn stress management and the ability to deal with their own anger, frustration and violent tendencies, and also to learn human values and actually practice them? Can they receive credit for a class like this? This is what students are asking, and I have superintendents coming to me saying what can you do -- we'll give credit to students for doing this. Is there a way we can do that?

SECRETARY SPELLINGS: Well, those are state curriculum issues, and lots of states have included character education or programs like that as part of their required curriculum, and give credit for it. But I would commend all those superintendents to their state board of education and put them to work. We had some of that in Texas and gave a lot of credit for peer mentoring and those sorts of things that are so supportive of kids.

THE PRESIDENT: I am sorry for those of you standing in line. I know, I apologize.

Q Time for one more?

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, one final guy -- go ahead. (Laughter.)

Q I wanted to explain why I had on a bright red jacket.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that's why. (Laughter.)

Q I appreciate it.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you for coming.

Q My name is Michael H. Smith, and I'm the president for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. We are an in-school, high school, and middle school organization focusing on the family. Our main mission is to promote family as the basic unit of society.

And I'm happy I got to follow up after your question because we are -- family consumer sciences -- its curriculum in high schools and middle schools is teaching character education, that is teaching youth violence prevention. We're teaching career exploration. Because of our title, Family and Consumer Sciences and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, we address every one of the issues that's been presented in the discussions and in this room. And we are willing and wanting to partner with every single person in here to help students get this message out to students. We're about peer-to-peer message sharing. We want each and every student in our organization, which reaches about a quarter of a million students, to be a lot broader than that. We want to touch every student in America through our programs and through our mission to promote family as the basic unit of society, and the values thereof.

So I thank you, Mr. President, Mrs. Bush --

Q Why the red coat? (Laughter.) Just so you got called on? I mean, is there a -- (laughter.)

Q I just wanted that. No, our colors in the organization are red and white.

THE PRESIDENT: Fabulous.

Q So all of the officers wear our red jackets.

THE PRESIDENT: I, once again, apologize. I've got to get on an airplane. But I do want to thank you all for coming. I hope you have found this interesting. I am a results-oriented person, and I expect from Margaret and Al to make sure that out of all this effort comes some concrete action to help people understand what is possible, what is doable, the programs that are working. And the head of the Sheriff's Department readily sprung to his feet to say, you can count on me.

The purpose has got to be more than just hoping somebody is listening to TV. The purpose has got to be, out of this that we share information so that we can save lives, encourage parents, and help people respond.

And I want to thank you all very much for coming. I'm proud you're here. God bless you all. (Applause.)

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## **Fact Sheet: Conference on School Safety**

October 10, 2006

"Our schoolchildren should never fear [for] their safety when they enter into a classroom."

- President George W. Bush, 10/3/06

### **Today's Conference On School Safety Will Help Empower Communities To Keep Our Children Safe.**

Recently, America experienced tragic school shootings in Colorado, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania, and threats of violence that locked down or closed schools in many other States. In response, President Bush asked Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and Education Secretary Margaret Spellings to convene a meeting of leading experts and stakeholders to discuss how Federal, State, and local governments can work together with schools, communities, and families to help ensure our schools are safe places for students to learn. The conference is taking place at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

### **The Conference Will Bring Together Experts, Law Enforcement Officials, Schools, Communities, And Families To:**

- Highlight best practices for making schools safe;
- Share lessons learned from prior incidents of school violence; and
- Bring together resources and experts on how to make schools safer and help communities and families recover from school tragedies.

### **Panel I: Preventing Violence In Schools**

**Moderated By Attorney General Gonzales, Panel I Will Focus On Examining The Scope Of The School Violence Problem And Discussing Concrete Steps To Prevent Crime And Violence.** Law enforcement has already learned many lessons from prior instances of school violence, such as the tragic Columbine shootings. The goal of this "best practices" session is to share practical ideas and solutions from law enforcement and security experts to help safeguard our schools from external and internal threats. The panel discussion will focus specifically on facility security, threat assessments, specialized enforcement expertise, and law enforcement community outreach.

- **Panel I Participants:** Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, Moderator
  - Jeffery Dawsy, Sheriff, Citrus County Sheriff's Office (Beverly Hills, FL)
  - Delbert S. Elliott, Ph.D., Director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado (Boulder, CO)
  - Thomas Kube, Executive Director and CEO, Council of Educational Facility Planners (Scottsdale, AZ)
  - Georgeann C. Rooney, Threat Assessment Specialist, U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (Arlington, VA)
  - Fred Wegener, Sheriff (Park County, CO)
  - Gregory A. White, U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio (North Ridgeville, OH)

### **Panel II: Prepared Schools And Communities Are Safer**

**Moderated By Secretary Spellings, Panel II Will Focus On Steps Schools And Communities Can Take To Help Prevent Future Tragedies.** Schools are generally safe places, but they can be made safer. The panel will

discuss how school administrators and teachers, parents, students, law enforcement, and community groups can best coordinate their efforts to ensure their schools are prepared and safe. The panel will highlight effective prevention and intervention practices, model programs, and crisis plans that could be adapted by communities and districts.

- **Panel II Participants:** Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, Moderator

- Frederick Ellis, Director, Office of Safety & Security, Fairfax County Public Schools (Fairfax, VA)
- James Moore, Founder and President, WatchDOGS (Springhill, AR)
- The Honorable Jane Norton, Lieutenant Governor, CO (Denver, CO)
- Chiarasay E. "Chiara" Perkins, Student, Walton Senior High School and President, Youth Crime Watch of Walton County (DeFuniak Springs, FL)
- Dr. George Sugai, Professor and Neag Endowed Chair, Neag School of Education University of Connecticut (Storrs, CT)
- Patrick D. Weil, Principal, Valparaiso High School (Valparaiso, IN)

**Panel III: Helping Communities Heal And Recover**

**Moderated By Secretary Spellings, Panel III Will Focus On The Short- And Long-Term Needs Of Schools And Communities Following Traumatic Events.** The immediate goal in helping schools and communities recover from trauma is returning to a normal routine, but schools must also focus on long-term planning, including addressing post-traumatic stress and preparing for high-stress events such as anniversaries. This panel will highlight effective strategies, organizations, and resources that schools and communities can use for additional help in recovering from traumatic events. Mrs. Laura Bush will deliver brief remarks prior to the start of this panel discussion.

- **Panel III Participants:** Secretary Spellings, Moderator

- Jamie B. Baggett, Teacher, Stewart County High School (Dover, TN)
- Betty Alvarez Ham, Founder and President, City Impact (Ventura, CA)
- Dr. Larry Macaluso, Superintendent, Red Lion School District (Red Lion, PA)
- Cathy Paine, Special Programs Administrator, Springfield School District (Springfield, OR)
- Craig Scott, Columbine High School Survivor (Aurora, CO)
- Marleen Wong, Ph.D., Director of Crisis Counseling and Intervention Services, Los Angeles Unified School District and Director of the Trauma Services Adaptation Center for Schools and Communities (Los Angeles, CA)

**Closing Discussion: Working Together To Make Our Schools Safe**

**Moderated By Attorney General Gonzales And Secretary Spellings, The Closing Discussion Will Be A Summary Discussion Between President Bush And A Representative Group Of Panel Participants Who Will Share Lessons Learned And Concrete Ways Schools And Communities Can Work Together After The Conference.**

###

## **National Consumer Protection Week, 2007**

### **A Proclamation By the President of the United States of America**

February 2, 2007

During National Consumer Protection Week, citizens are urged to learn more about the risks of fraud and identity theft and take precautions to protect themselves from these crimes.

Americans can help prevent fraud and identity theft by becoming informed consumers. The Federal Trade Commission suggests that individuals safeguard personal information such as Social Security and account numbers, closely monitor their financial accounts, and report any problems or suspicious activity. When doing business through the Internet, it is especially important to protect personal data with appropriate software and commonsense security practices. Consumers and businesses can find resources on how to avoid identity theft and fraud by visiting the Federal Government's consumer protection website, [www.consumer.gov](http://www.consumer.gov).

My Administration is committed to protecting consumers from fraud, deception, and unfair business practices. In May 2006, I signed an Executive Order creating the Nation's first Identity Theft Task Force, comprised of the heads of executive departments and agencies. This Task Force is implementing a comprehensive strategy to prevent identity theft, prosecute those who commit fraud, and help victims. Through these and other efforts, we are helping to ensure that consumers have the tools they need to secure their personal information, monitor their financial accounts, maintain their privacy, and make responsible decisions to guard against fraud.

Consumer fraud takes advantage of the trust and integrity that characterizes our country's marketplace. By remaining vigilant and defending against fraud, Americans can protect their financial security and help our Nation's economy remain strong.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 February 4 through February 10, 2007, as National Consumer Protection Week. I call upon Government officials, industry leaders, and consumer advocates to provide citizens with information about how they can prevent fraud and identity theft, and I encourage all citizens to be responsible consumers and take an active role in protecting their personal information.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

## **National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2007**

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

March 27, 2007

All Americans share a responsibility to protect our Nation's children. During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we renew our commitment to prevent child abuse and neglect and to work to enable our children to realize their full potential.

Childhood is a formative time, and abuse can have devastating long-term effects on young lives. In order to provide a safe environment for our young people, parents must work to protect their children from the dangers that threaten them. Family members, educators, public officials, and faith-based and community organizations all play important roles in helping to ensure that children are safe and can grow surrounded by love and stability.

My Administration is committed to supporting children and promoting safe and stable families across America. Last year, I signed into law the Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006, which will help to prevent and address child abuse and neglect by improving child welfare services and continuing vital mentoring and family programs. Additionally, the Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood program and the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 help officials at all levels of government protect our children and bring sexual and online predators, Internet pornographers who prey on our children, and other violent criminals to justice with stronger laws and improved coordination among authorities.

As we observe National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we underscore our commitment to building an America where all children can thrive, develop character, and learn to be responsible citizens in an environment of security and love. By honoring our obligation to support and protect our young people, all Americans have an opportunity to make a positive difference in the life of a child and build a brighter future for our country. For more information about how each of us can help stop child abuse, please visit [childwelfare.gov](http://childwelfare.gov).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 April 2007 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I encourage all citizens to help protect our children and work to create strong, healthy communities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

**President Bush Shocked, Saddened by Shootings at Virginia Tech  
Diplomatic Reception Room**

April 16, 2007

THE PRESIDENT: Our nation is shocked and saddened by the news of the shootings at Virginia Tech today. The exact total has not yet been confirmed, but it appears that more than 30 people were killed and many more were wounded.

I've spoken with Governor Tim Kaine and Virginia Tech President Charles Steger. I told them that Laura and I and many across our nation are praying for the victims and their families and all the members of the university community who have been devastated by this terrible tragedy. I told them that my administration would do everything possible to assist with the investigation, and that I pledged that we would stand ready to help local law enforcement and the local community in any way we can during this time of sorrow.

Schools should be places of safety and sanctuary and learning. When that sanctuary is violated, the impact is felt in every American classroom and every American community.

Today, our nation grieves with those who have lost loved ones at Virginia Tech. We hold the victims in our hearts, we lift them up in our prayers, and we ask a loving God to comfort those who are suffering today.

Thank you.

###

## **President Bush Offers Condolences at Virginia Tech Memorial Convocation**

Cassell Coliseum  
Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, Virginia

April 17, 2007

THE PRESIDENT: Governor, thank you. President Steger, thank you very much. Students, and faculty, and staff, and grieving family members, and members of this really extraordinary place.

Laura and I have come to Blacksburg today with hearts full of sorrow. This is a day of mourning for the Virginia Tech community -- and it is a day of sadness for our entire nation. We've come to express our sympathy. In this time of anguish, I hope you know that people all over this country are thinking about you, and asking God to provide comfort for all who have been affected.

Yesterday began like any other day. Students woke up, and they grabbed their backpacks and they headed for class. And soon the day took a dark turn, with students and faculty barricading themselves in classrooms and dormitories -- confused, terrified, and deeply worried. By the end of the morning, it was the worst day of violence on a college campus in American history -- and for many of you here today, it was the worst day of your lives.

It's impossible to make sense of such violence and suffering. Those whose lives were taken did nothing to deserve their fate. They were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. Now they're gone -- and they leave behind grieving families, and grieving classmates, and a grieving nation.

In such times as this, we look for sources of strength to sustain us. And in this moment of loss, you're finding these sources everywhere around you. These sources of strength are in this community, this college community. You have a compassionate and resilient community here at Virginia Tech. Even as yesterday's events were still unfolding, members of this community found each other; you came together in dorm rooms and dining halls and on blogs. One recent graduate wrote this: "I don't know most of you guys, but we're all Hokies, which means we're family. To all of you who are okay, I'm happy for that. For those of you who are in pain or have lost someone close to you, I'm sure you can call on anyone of us and have help any time you need it."

These sources of strength are with your loved ones. For many of you, your first instinct was to call home and let your moms and dads know that you were okay. Others took on the terrible duty of calling the relatives of a classmate or a colleague who had been wounded or lost. I know many of you feel awfully far away from people you lean on and people you count on during difficult times. But as a dad, I can assure you, a parent's love is never far from their child's heart. And as you draw closer to your own families in the coming days, I ask you to reach out to those who ache for sons and daughters who will never come home.

These sources of strength are also in the faith that sustains so many of us. Across the town of Blacksburg and in towns all across America, houses of worship from every faith have opened their doors and have lifted you up in prayer. People who have never met you are praying for you; they're praying for your friends who have fallen and who are injured. There's a power in these prayers, real power. In times like this, we can find comfort in the grace and guidance of a loving God. As the Scriptures tell us, "Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

And on this terrible day of mourning, it's hard to imagine that a time will come when life at Virginia Tech will return to normal. But such a day will come. And when it does, you will always remember the friends and teachers who were lost yesterday, and the time you shared with them, and the lives they hoped to lead. May God bless you. May God bless and keep the souls of the lost. And may His love touch all those who suffer and grieve. (Applause.)

###

**Honoring the Victims of the Tragedy at Virginia Tech**  
A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

April 17, 2007

Our Nation grieves with those who have lost loved ones at Virginia Tech. We hold the victims in our hearts. We lift them up in our prayers, and we ask a loving God to comfort those who are suffering.

As a mark of respect for the victims of the senseless acts of violence perpetrated on Monday, April 16, 2007, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby order that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, Sunday, April 22, 2007. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

# Withdrawal Marker

## The George W. Bush Library

| FORM       | SUBJECT/TITLE                                              | PAGES | DATE       | RESTRICTION(S) |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|----------------|
| Memorandum | Shootings at Virginia Tech - To: POTUS - From: Kelly Scott | 4     | 04/17/2007 | P5;            |

**This marker identifies the original location of the withdrawn item listed above.  
For a complete list of items withdrawn from this folder, see the  
Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet at the front of the folder.**

#### COLLECTION:

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

#### SERIES:

Von Der Heydt, Thomas (Tommy) - Bush Record Policy Memos

#### FOLDER TITLE:

Crime Legacy: A Timeline (2001 - 2008) [2]

#### FRC ID:

14346

#### OA Num.:

14456

#### NARA Num.:

14245

#### RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

#### Deed of Gift Restrictions

- A. Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.
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- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

**National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2007**  
A Proclamation by the President of the United States

April 20, 2007

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is an opportunity to underscore our commitment to protecting the rights of crime victims and to recognize those who bring hope and healing to these individuals and their families. During this week, we especially remember and mourn the victims of the senseless acts of violence at Virginia Tech. A grieving Nation honors the innocent lives lost in this tragedy, and we pray for the families of the victims.

My Administration is committed to helping safeguard our communities and to ensuring that the rights of those who have been victimized by crime are protected. My Family Justice Center Initiative, announced in 2003, is now providing assistance and services for victims of domestic violence at centers nationwide. Additionally, last year I signed into law the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, which helps protect our youth by increasing the penalties for crimes against children and creating a National Child Abuse Registry. My Administration also supports a Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the Constitution to further protect the basic rights of crime victims.

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year, we remember and are grateful to our Nation's victim service providers, volunteers, law enforcement, and community organizations that support victims of crime through their commitment and compassion. To find out more information about victims' rights and volunteer opportunities, individuals may visit [www.crimevictims.gov](http://www.crimevictims.gov). Together, we can help ensure that crime victims have the rights and protections they deserve.

NOW, THEREFORE I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 April 22 through April 28, 2007, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I encourage all Americans to help raise awareness and promote the cause of victims' rights in their communities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

## **President Bush Honors Victims of Virginia Tech Tragedy at White House Correspondents Dinner**

The Washington Hilton Hotel

April 21, 2007

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Steve, thank you very much. Laura and I are delighted to be here. (Laughter.) Actually, we are. You know, we've got to learn to laugh in this town. And I appreciate the humor, I really do. I think a society that can poke fun at its political leaders is a society that's a confident society and a free society. So we're delighted to be here. (Applause.)

And I was looking forward to doing a little poking myself. (Laughter.) But in light of this week's tragedy at Virginia Tech, I decided not to be funny. Many of the men and women in this room have spent this week reporting from Blacksburg, Virginia: You have interviewed grieving students and faculty members; you have spoken with the families who lost a child; you have brought home to millions of Americans the sense of sorrow and loss that the Virginia Tech community is going through now, and I appreciate your work.

At a memorial service on Tuesday, I told the university community that people all over this country are thinking about them, and many are praying for them. And so, really, this dinner comes at a good time. It's been a tough week for a lot of folks, particularly the folks at Virginia Tech. And so I'm not going to try to be the funny guy, but I have the opportunity to introduce one who will be.

And so thanks for the dinner, and it is now my honor to bring to this podium a talented and good man, Rich Little. (Applause.)

###

# Withdrawal Marker

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| FORM       | SUBJECT/TITLE                                    | PAGES | DATE       | RESTRICTION(S) |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|----------------|
| Memorandum | Hate Crimes - To: POTUS - From: Karl Zinsmeister | 2     | 05/02/2007 | P5;            |

**This marker identifies the original location of the withdrawn item listed above.  
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Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

#### **SERIES:**

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#### **FOLDER TITLE:**

Crime Legacy: A Timeline (2001 - 2008) [2]

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

May 3, 2007  
(House)

## STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

### H.R. 1592 – Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007

(Rep. Conyers (D) Michigan and 171 cosponsors)

The Administration favors strong criminal penalties for violent crime, including crime based on personal characteristics, such as race, color, religion, or national origin. However, the Administration believes that H.R. 1592 is unnecessary and constitutionally questionable. If H.R. 1592 were presented to the President, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

State and local criminal laws already provide criminal penalties for the violence addressed by the new Federal crime defined in section 7 of H.R. 1592, and many of these laws carry stricter penalties (including mandatory minimums and the death penalty) than the proposed language in H.R. 1592. State and local law enforcement agencies and courts have the capability to enforce those penalties and are doing so effectively. There has been no persuasive demonstration of any need to federalize such a potentially large range of violent crime enforcement, and doing so is inconsistent with the proper allocation of criminal enforcement responsibilities between the different levels of government. In addition, almost every State in the country can actively prosecute hate crimes under the State's own hate crimes law.

H.R. 1592 prohibits willfully causing or attempting to cause bodily injury to any person based upon the victim's race, color, religion, or national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. The Administration notes that the bill would leave other classes (such as the elderly, members of the military, police officers, and victims of prior crimes) without similar special status. The Administration believes that all violent crimes are unacceptable, regardless of the victims, and should be punished firmly.

Moreover, the bill's proposed section 249(a)(1) of title 18 of the U.S. Code raises constitutional concerns. Federalization of criminal law concerning the violence prohibited by the bill would be constitutional only if done in the implementation of a power granted to the Federal government, such as the power to protect Federal personnel, to regulate interstate commerce, or to enforce equal protection of the laws. Section 249(a)(1) is not by its terms limited to the exercise of such a power, and it is not at all clear that sufficient factual or legal grounds exist to uphold this provision of H.R. 1592.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2007**  
A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

May 11, 2007

In every American community, committed law enforcement officers watch over our neighborhoods and work to make our Nation a safer, more peaceful place. As we observe Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, we honor the men and women who serve the cause of justice, and we pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

By taking an oath to serve and protect their fellow citizens, law enforcement officers answer a vital calling and accept a profound responsibility. These extraordinary Americans work to uphold our laws and serve on the front lines in the fight against crime and terrorism.

We owe a lasting debt to those who sacrificed their lives while serving and protecting our fellow citizens. These fallen officers live on in our national memory as Americans whose courage and commitment have shown the true meaning of heroism. We offer our respect and prayers to their loved ones.

On Peace Officers' Memorial Day and during Police Week, we recognize and honor the service and sacrifice of the men and women whose devotion to duty brings honor to our system of justice and makes America a better place.

By a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962, as amended, (76 Stat. 676), the Congress has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers' Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week," and by Public Law 103-322, as amended, (36 U.S.C. 136), has directed that the flag be flown at half staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2007, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and May 13 through May 19, 2007, as Police Week. I call on all Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call on Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half staff on Peace Officers' Memorial Day. I further encourage all Americans to display the flag at half staff from their homes and businesses on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

COPY  
FROM ORM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 14, 2007

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/15/07

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: KARL ZINSMEISTER

FROM: TODD BRAUNSTEIN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, DOMESTIC  
POLICY COUNCIL

RACHEL BRAND, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR  
LEGAL POLICY

SUBJECT: Attorney General's Initiative for Safer Communities

In October, the Attorney General announced the Initiative for Safer Communities. The purpose of the project was to understand what was behind the recent up-tick in violent crime rates, and what the Federal government could do to help lower those rates, while recognizing the limited Federal role in combating street-level crime. In November and December, Department of Justice officials visited 18 metro areas to talk with state and local law enforcement and others in the community about the causes of crime in their cities.

On the morning of May 15, the Attorney General will deliver a speech that will describe what DOJ officials learned from their city visits, highlight what DOJ has done and is doing to combat violent crime, and announce several new efforts to fight violent crime.

In his speech, the Attorney General will note that crime rates remain near historic lows, but stress that any increase in violent crime is of concern and that your Administration is focused on the issue. He will recognize that the vast majority of work to combat violent crime is done at the state and local level, but that there are specific ways in which Federal law enforcement can supplement those efforts.

The city visits did not result in the identification of any national cause for the recent increase in the nationwide violent crime rate. The causes of crime largely depend upon local circumstances, and violent crime rates in many cities have decreased. However, certain themes emerged in many of the cities visited. In his speech, the Attorney General will highlight three such themes: an increase in youth violence, an increase in loosely organized, non-hierarchical street crews and neighborhood gangs, and the proliferation of firearms.

The new efforts the Attorney General will announce include both new *Federal* law enforcement efforts and enhanced assistance to *state and local* law enforcement.

New Federal law enforcement efforts to be announced include:

- Calling on all U.S. Attorneys and DOJ law enforcement components to collaborate with state and local law enforcement and prosecutors to identify violent crime cases appropriately prosecuted in the Federal system;
- Hiring additional Federal prosecutors, many of whom will be dedicated to violent crime-related cases;
- U.S. Marshals Service-led FALCON initiatives (fugitive round-ups/proactive takedown operations) in six additional cities this year;
- U.S. Marshals Service-led Fugitive Safe Surrender programs (in which fugitives from justice are given an opportunity to surrender voluntarily to the law in a neutral setting) in at least three additional cities this year;
- Expansion of ATF's "Don't Lie for the Other Guy" program to educate Federal firearms dealers on how to detect and deter illegal gun purchases made by proxy buyers, enhance our partnership with dealers to prevent and deter these illegal purchases, and educate the public that engaging in proxy purchases is illegal under Federal law; and
- Expansion of ATF's Violent Crime Impact Team initiative to include several additional cities in the next year.

With respect to assistance to state and local law enforcement, the Attorney General will announce Project Safe Neighborhood and anti-gang grants and the first-ever DOJ-sponsored Comprehensive Anti-Gang Training for states and localities.

DOJ is working on draft legislation to help bolster its authorities to combat violent crime. Your advisors will expedite DOJ's proposal through the interagency policy process this week, for presentation and discussion with you at Policy Time next week.

COPY  
FROM ORM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/30/07

May 29, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: Karl Zinsmeister

FROM: Todd Braunstein

SUBJECT: DOJ's Crime and Anti-Terror Bill

Violent crime fell steadily during your first term, reaching record lows in 2004. In 2005, however, violent crime ticked up by 1.3%—the first increase since 1992. Preliminary data for the first six months of 2006 showed a further increase of 3.7% compared to the same period in 2005. The violent crime rate for all of 2006 is slated for release on June 4, and it is likely to show a rise. Even after these recent minor increases, violent crime remains at very low levels by historical standards.

Your Administration has responded to this minor uptick in violent crime in several ways. First, the Attorney General launched the Initiative for Safer Communities, dispatching Department officials to 18 metropolitan areas to study local crime rates with regional law enforcement officials and community stakeholders. These visits did not reveal a national cause, but they did identify several common themes, including an increase in youth violence, an increase in loosely organized gangs, and an increase in the illegal use of firearms, with weapons illegally acquired in a growing number of instances. Second, in a speech on May 15, the Attorney General announced new efforts to combat violent crime at the federal, state, and local levels, including a plan to hire additional Federal prosecutors to focus on violent crime and an expansion to six additional cities of a fugitive roundup led by the U.S. Marshals Service.

Finally, DOJ has drafted a new anti-crime bill. Following is a summary of some of its higher-profile provisions:

**Firearms** — Authorizes intermediate civil sanctions against firearms manufacturers, importers, and dealers who violate the law, including license suspension and monetary penalties, to supplement the present penalty of license revocation. Tougher penalties for transfer of firearms used to commit violent crimes or drug trafficking, higher penalties for possession of firearms by violent felons and those convicted of serious drug offenses, and expansion of the rebuttable presumption against releasing on bail those charged with certain firearms offenses. Finally, the bill will include language prioritizing grants to states and localities to improve "NICS," the background check system for gun purchases, by supplying timely, accurate information on arrest dispositions, mental health adjudications, protection orders, and convictions of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence.

**Anti-gang provisions** — Includes increased penalties for interstate and foreign travel in aid of racketeering, enhanced penalties for certain crimes committed by illegal aliens, and increased penalties for use of interstate commerce facilities to commit certain felony crimes of violence.

**Sentencing reform** — Provides a legislative fix to the 2005 Supreme Court decision that made Federal sentencing guidelines advisory only. Creates minimum guidelines to ensure that Federal sentencing is consistent, certain, and less susceptible to frivolous legal challenge. Reestablishes, with little change, the Federal guidelines that were in force for more than 17 years.

**Modifications to death penalty procedures** — Establishes a procedure for determining whether a defendant's mental disability means he cannot be sentenced to death under Supreme Court precedent; requires the defendant to provide notice before trial of mitigating factors he intends to rely on; amends current law to require appointment of counsel with death penalty expertise only once the government files notice of intent to seek the death penalty.

**Expanded forfeiture provisions** — Expands coverage to certain property involved in specified terrorist-related crimes, computer-related crimes, alien smuggling, and money-laundering crimes, as well as certain property frequently employed in fraud.

**Expanded authority over money-laundering** — Creates two new money laundering offenses: interstate transportation of criminal proceeds by couriers and "reverse" money laundering to target monetary transactions conducted for the purpose of promoting unlawful activity. Allows freezing the accounts of persons arrested for an offense involving movement of funds across U.S. borders; authorizes DOJ to use administrative subpoenas to investigate money laundering.

**Child pornography** — Creates a new crime for knowingly accessing child pornography with intent to view it and adds a mandatory minimum prison term for possession of child pornography. Viewing and possessing bear an indirect relationship to the underlying exploitation of children, but the justification is that these provisions would help stifle demand for child pornography and thereby dampen monetary incentives to produce it. The mandatory minimum also responds to evidence that in an unusually large percentage of cases involving possession of child pornography, judges give lower sentences than federal sentencing guidelines call for.

**Anti-terrorist provisions** — These include a new crime for martyr payments to terrorists; a prohibition on attempts and conspiracies to obtain military-type training from a foreign terrorist organization; protections against rape and kidnapping overseas, hostage taking, and interference with an airline flight crew; and a new criminal penalty for solicitation to provide material support for terrorism.

COPY  
FROM ORM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 6, 2007

INFORMATION

THE PRESIDENT HAS ACTED

6/8/07

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: KARL ZINSMEISTER

SUBJECT: Racial Disparities in Sentencing

You asked for a report on evidence of racial disparities in criminal sentencing. Careful studies find no systematic evidence of discrimination in overall sentencing.

Capital Cases

In 2006, 53 persons were executed in 14 states. Of these convicts, 32 were white and 21 were black.

There is no clear sign in basic crime statistics that the race of a defendant has any strong effect on his likelihood of getting a death sentence. Some data seem to hint that white defendants might fare worse in capital cases and that the death sentence might also be more likely when the victim is white. This disparity evaporates, however, when the specifics of cases are taken into consideration.

One comprehensive study of the Federal death penalty published in 2000 by the Clinton Justice Department found that decisions to seek the death penalty were *less* likely at each stage of the process for black and Hispanic defendants than for white defendants:

- U.S. Attorneys recommended the death penalty in a lower percentage of the submitted cases involving minority defendants.
- The Attorney General's capital case review committee recommended the death penalty a smaller fraction of the time for black and Hispanic defendants.
- The Attorney General was less likely to choose to seek the death penalty when the defendants were non-white.

A follow-up study by the Justice Department in mid-2001 extended these findings. It showed that lighter use of the death penalty for black and Hispanic defendants held true both for "minority on minority" crimes and for "minority on white" cases.

The best recent research on this subject was published one year ago by the U.S. National Institute of Justice. It pooled results from three teams of academics, organized by the RAND Corporation, and came to this conclusion:

"When we look at the raw data and make no adjustment for case characteristics, we find the large race effects noted previously—namely, a decision to seek the death penalty is more likely to occur when the defendants are white, and when the victims are white. However, these disparities disappear when the data coded from the Attorney General's case files are used to adjust for the heinousness of the crime. For instance, [researchers Berk and He of UCLA] concluded 'On balance, there seems to be no evidence in these data of systematic racial effects.' The other two teams reached the same conclusion. [Researchers Klein, Freedman, and Bolus] found that, with their models, 'after controlling for the tally of aggravating and mitigating factors, and district, there was no evidence of a race effect. This was true whether we examined race of victim alone...or race of defendant and the interaction between victim and defendant race.' [And researcher Schonlau of RAND] reported that his 'analysis found no evidence of racial bias in either the U.S. Attorney's Office or the Attorney General decisions to seek the death penalty.'"

#### Non-Capital Sentencing

Racial disparities also seem to exist in the raw data in non-capital cases. For example, statistics show that for most of the 1990s, the average black prisoner in the Federal system served about 80 months, while the average white prisoner and the average Hispanic prisoner served about 40 months. But these disparities appear to be almost entirely explained by relevant crime factors, such as the type of crime committed and the prior criminal record of the offender. The U.S. Sentencing Commission observed in 2004 that "no careful student of sentencing research seriously disputes this finding."

The same basic conclusion emerged from a comprehensive 1997 literature survey that focused primarily on state sentencing. It concluded that the influence of race on sentence length is "small to nonexistent" once legally relevant variables are taken into account. [Robert Sampson & Janet Lauritsen, "Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Crime and Criminal Justice in the United States," 21 *Crime and Justice* 311 (1997).]

## **President's Statement on the Report to the President on Issues Raised by the Virginia Tech Tragedy**

June 13, 2007

Shortly after the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech, I directed Secretary Michael Leavitt, Secretary Margaret Spellings, and Attorney General Alberto Gonzales to examine the broad and complex issues raised by this tragedy. I asked them to determine how the federal government could best help to support state and local efforts to ensure that our communities, including college campuses, are safe. They responded quickly, traveling to a dozen states to hear from governors, law enforcement officials, mental health professionals, educators, and other state and local officials.

They learned a great deal and today presented me with their key findings. I look forward to reviewing their recommendations in more detail, but a few points are immediately clear: Information sharing among the healthcare, law enforcement, and education communities must improve; those groups must better understand the federal laws related to information sharing; and accurate, complete information sharing between states and the federal government is essential in helping to keep guns out of the wrong hands and to punish those who break the law.

I thank Secretaries Leavitt and Spellings and Attorney General Gonzales for their fine work on this important report.

With the findings in this report in mind, I am closely following legislative efforts to strengthen the instant background check system. I look forward to working with Congress on this effort.

###

## **National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2007**

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

October 1, 2007

Families are indispensable to a stable society, and they should be a place of support to instill responsibility and values in the next generation. When a family member is abused, it can have long-term damaging effects on the victim that leave a mark on family, friends, and the community at large. Our society must continue to work to prevent domestic violence and help create a loving and stable environment for our children and grandchildren.

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an opportunity to renew our commitment to preventing domestic violence and to assisting those who suffer from its devastating effects. My Administration is dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence. The Family Justice Center Initiative, announced in 2003, continues to work towards eradicating domestic violence in our Nation. This program provides assistance and services for victims of domestic violence by bringing professionals, advocates, law enforcement, and organizations together at centers nationwide. In 2006, I signed legislation that reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act to fight domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We also are working with faith-based and community organizations to assist victims in need. In addition, the Department of Justice's Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Assistance Program provides access to transitional housing services while working to move victims of violence into permanent housing.

As we observe National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we underscore our commitment to building an America where all citizens can live with dignity, work productively, and achieve their dreams. We encourage victims and their families and friends to seek assistance through Family Justice Centers and to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE. Together, we can help prevent, recognize, and stop domestic violence in America.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2007 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to reach out to those who have been abused and help educate people about the vital importance of ending domestic violence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

## **National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2007**

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

November 30, 2007

Accidents related to drunk and drugged driving claim the lives of thousands of Americans every year. During National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month we seek to raise awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and encourage citizens to drive responsibly.

As a Nation, we must work together to prevent drunk and drugged driving on our roads. We can all play an important role by educating family members and friends about the devastating consequences of impaired driving and by insisting that they have a designated driver. Businesses, community organizations, and faith-based groups can promote substance abuse prevention and encourage alternative sources of transportation. By encouraging our fellow citizens to make responsible choices, we can help save lives.

My Administration is dedicated to strengthening efforts against drunk and drugged driving. We have partnered with communities across America to increase public awareness about this serious crime and prevent impaired drivers from putting themselves and others at risk. Through high-visibility enforcement operations, the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is helping discourage individuals from drinking and driving. To take drug impaired drivers off the streets, the Office of National Drug Control Policy is working to give law enforcement officers the tools they need to detect when citizens are driving under the influence of drugs.

During National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month and throughout the year, we are reminded of the importance of driving free from the influence of alcohol and drugs. By working together, we can make our Nation's roadways safer for everyone.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 December 2007 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. I urge all Americans to make responsible decisions and take appropriate measures to prevent drunk and drugged driving.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

## **President Bush Signs H.R. 660, H.R. 3690, S. 863, and H.R. 2640**

January 8, 2008

On Monday, January 7, 2008, the President signed into law:

H.R. 660, the "Court Security Improvement Act of 2007," which bars possession of dangerous weapons, in addition to guns, in Federal courts; provides for other protections for Federal judges and other Federal officials; authorizes grants for programs to increase court security; and increases penalties for various violent crimes against the immediate families of Federal officials;

H.R. 3690, the "U.S. Capitol Police and Library of Congress Police Merger Implementation Act of 2007," which, by October 2009, transfers employees of the Library of Congress Police to the U.S. Capitol Police and expands the jurisdiction of the U.S. Capitol Police to include the grounds and building of the Library of Congress; and

S. 863, the "Emergency and Disaster Assistance Fraud Penalty Enhancement Act of 2007," which establishes a crime of fraud in connection with benefits related to Federally-declared major disasters or emergencies; and increases criminal penalties for engaging in mail or wire fraud in relation to such benefits.

On Tuesday, January 8, 2008, the President signed into law:

H.R. 2640, the "NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007," which requires accurate information on individuals prohibited from possessing firearms to be transmitted by State and local government and Federal agencies to the Justice Department-administered National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS); and provides incentives for facilitating electronic transmission of such information to NICS.

###

# Withdrawal Marker

## The George W. Bush Library

| FORM       | SUBJECT/TITLE                                           | PAGES | DATE       | RESTRICTION(S) |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|----------------|
| Memorandum | Cocaine Sentencing - To: POTUS - From: Karl Zinsmeister | 2     | 01/27/2008 | P5;            |

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### **COLLECTION:**

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### **FOLDER TITLE:**

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COPY  
FROM ORM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

3/28-29/08

March 28, 2008

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: KARL ZINSMEISTER

SUBJECT: "ANTI-SNITCHING" CULTURE AND WITNESS  
INTIMIDATION

During a meeting with the Attorney General, you asked about today's "anti-snitching" culture, and street campaigns aimed at discouraging witnesses from cooperating with law enforcement. The Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), a major law enforcement group, hosted a conference this month on witness intimidation. This memo summarizes some of the insights generated at this conference, as well as an assessment by various law enforcement agencies of the nature and extent of this movement, plus a summary of some efforts to combat the "anti-snitch" message.

The Problem

Today's "anti-snitching" ethos is the latest incarnation of long-running attempts by criminals to discourage cooperation with law enforcement, particularly in certain minority groups and communities with gang problems. Witness intimidation is now widespread in many low-income urban communities. Although witness intimidation cases cannot be tracked definitively because they are prosecuted in several different categories, the number of Federal cases and convictions in the most easily tracked categories has increased approximately 50-100 percent over the last 15 years.

A 2008 PERF survey of 88<sup>1</sup> police departments found that 86 percent encountered problems in enforcing the law because of a criminal code of silence that intimidates victims and witnesses through threats, physical violence, or property damage. More than half of the police departments said the problem was new in their city, or had gotten worse. Eight out of ten departments have experienced retribution against cooperating witnesses. Prosecutions of violent crimes, gang crimes, and drug crimes are most affected. Police departments say the code of silence makes it more difficult for them to solve crimes, with 78 percent reporting a decreased willingness of witnesses to testify, and 45 percent saying their crime clearance rates have fallen as a result.

"Stop Snitchin'" is a peer-pressure movement rooted in hip-hop music, videos, and t-shirts. The nostrum is most prevalent in low-income African-American urban neighborhoods, among gangs, and in illegal-immigrant enclaves. Born out of a 2004

<sup>1</sup> PERF received 88 responses to its survey of 292 police departments. The 30 percent response rate is believed to be attributable to the short one week turn-around time.

DVD released in Baltimore, the "Stop Snitchin'" mentality was recently characterized in the *Baltimore Sun* as an "illness" that is "contagious" and "spreading." A Baltimore judge labeled it a "problem that...[is] here to stay."

In some places, criminals have "marketed a climate of fear" to silence potential witnesses. FBI spokesman John Miller recently stated, "We're not getting information from the average person anymore." Trenton, New Jersey, police director Joseph Santiago told *USA Today*. In Minneapolis, police chief Tim Dolan estimates that investigators run up against reluctant witnesses in 30 percent of murder investigations and more than 50 percent of other violent crimes. In D.C., incidents of witness intimidation were up 45 percent in 2007. In Boston, the police blame fear of retaliation for murder clearance rates below 38 percent.

The Federal law enforcement community's assessment is a mixed bag, and responses vary across the country. Like State and locals, Federal law enforcement officials report to DOJ that the anti-snitching culture is mostly confined to gangs and certain minority communities in large urban areas. While some U.S. Attorney's Offices report difficulty in enlisting witnesses to cooperate, others say it is not adversely affecting their investigations or prosecutions. For instance, the Safe Streets anti-gang task-forces operating in five major cities argue that the "anti-snitching" culture has had "little effect" on FBI investigations, or in getting witnesses to testify in court. This is often attributed to the fact that a large number of witnesses in Federal cases are themselves facing prosecution, thus making the incentive to cooperate with law enforcement sufficient to overcome the influence of the anti-snitching culture.

#### Current Actions to Combat the Problem

While DOJ has no nationwide program specifically targeting the "anti-snitching" culture, it is taking steps to encourage cooperation with law enforcement and to punish witness intimidation and obstruction of justice. U.S. Attorney's Offices generally try to vigorously prosecute cases of witness tampering and intimidation. DOJ has also proposed legislation, the Violent Crime and Terrorism Act of 2007, that would increase penalties on tampering, retaliation, and obstruction.

On the prevention front, the Federal Witness Protection Program and other efforts run by the U.S. Marshals Service offer protection to cooperating witnesses. DOJ's Gang Threat Fund assists persons who, though not actual witnesses in a case, have been threatened for working with law enforcement.

DOJ has programs designed to encourage community participation in crime prevention and deterrence. For instance, Project Safe Neighborhoods aims to increase witness and community cooperation, using tip lines and community outreach programs. DOJ anti-gang initiatives encourage residents to cooperate with police to reclaim neighborhoods. DOJ also provides grants aimed at improving relations between law enforcement and local residents.

#### Next Steps

A goal of the PERF conference was to generate ideas for more fully addressing the "anti-switching" problem. DOJ views some of these ideas as promising. For example, PERF recommended using technology like instant-messaging to open new avenues for the anonymous sharing of information with law enforcement officials. PERF also recommended addressing underlying causes, including pressing the entertainment industry to stop romanticizing gangster behavior; developing a national public-service campaign; reaching into schools to break down the lack of trust between children and police; and enlisting faith-based organizations, community groups, and parents.

In consultation with DOJ, PERF is over the coming months developing a report summarizing these and other recommendations from their recent conference. Your White House advisors will review PERF's and DOJ's recommendations to determine whether additional steps are warranted.

###

**National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2008**  
A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

April 1, 2008

Children are the hope and promise of our Nation, and our society has a special duty to ensure young Americans get the care and attention they need to succeed in life. During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we underscore our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect so that all children can live in safety and security.

Parents have a responsibility to safeguard their children from danger and to provide the love, protection, and guidance youngsters need to grow into confident and caring adults. In every community across the Nation, good and courageous citizens are improving the lives of our most vulnerable children with acts of compassion. The strength of America lies in the ability of our citizens to make a positive difference in the lives of our young people.

My Administration is committed to the safety of our Nation's youth. In 2006, I signed into law the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, which was designed to protect children from sexual and other violent crimes, help prevent child pornography, and make the Internet safer for our children. This law expands sex offender registration and notification on a nationwide basis, provides a statutory basis for the Project Safe Childhood program, and gives communities and law enforcement the tools necessary to keep children out of harm's way. Additionally, with strengthened Federal penalties, we will ensure that those who prey on our children will be caught, prosecuted, and punished to the fullest extent of the law.

As we observe National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we reaffirm our loving commitment to America's youth and our dedication to building a society in which all children can realize their full potential.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 April 2008 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I encourage all citizens to help protect our children from abuse and neglect and to take an active role in creating safe communities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

## **President Bush Signs H.R. 1593, the Second Chance Act of 2007**

Room 350

Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building

April 9, 2008

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for coming. I'm about to sign a piece of legislation that will help give prisoners across America a second chance for a better life. This bill is going to support the caring men and women who help America's prisoners find renewal and hope.

I can't thank the folks who care enough about a fellow citizen to offer their love and compassion. It's through the acts of mercy that compassionate Americans are making the nation a more hopeful place, and I want to thank you all for joining us today.

And I thank the members of Congress who have joined us as well: Senator Arlen Specter, ranking member of the Judiciary Committee; Chairman Joe Biden -- not of the Judiciary Committee --

SENATOR BIDEN: Thank God. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: -- but of Foreign Relations; but a key member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Sam Brownback, as well. So we've got three United States senators here and I'm honored they are here. Members of the United States Congress: Chairman of the House Judiciary, John Conyers, and ranking member Lamar Smith. I want to thank you all for coming.

I appreciate very much Danny Davis joining us, as well -- bill sponsor. I want to thank Jim Sensenbrenner and Bobby Scott and Howard Coble and Chris Cannon. All good members and all members who worked hard to get this piece of legislation here in a timely fashion.

I thank the Attorney General, Judge Michael Mukasey, for joining us, as well; Elaine Chao, thank you for coming, Madam Secretary; Rob Portman, former Director of the OMB; and all the supporters of the Second Chance legislation. Thanks for caring about your country, thanks for working on this piece of legislation.

The country was built on the belief that each human being has limitless potential and worth. Everybody matters. We believe that even those who have struggled with a dark past can find brighter days ahead. One way we act on that belief is by helping former prisoners who've paid for their crimes -- we help them build new lives as productive members of our society.

The work of redemption reflects our values. It also reflects our national interests. Each year, approximately 650,000 prisoners are released from jail. Unfortunately, an estimated two-thirds of them are rearrested within three years. The high recidivism rate places a huge financial burden on taxpayers, it deprives our labor force of productive workers, and it deprives families of their daughters and sons, and husbands and wives, and moms and dads.

Our government has a responsibility to help prisoners to return as contributing members of their community. But this does not mean that the government has all the answers. Some of the most important work to help ex-convicts is done outside of Washington, D.C., in faith-based communities and community-based groups. It's done on streets and small town community centers. It's done in churches and synagogues and temples and mosques.

I like to call the folks who are engaged in this compassionate work, "members of the armies of compassion." They help addicts and users break the chains of addiction. They help former prisoners find a ride to work and a meal to eat and place to stay. These men and women are answering the call to love their neighbors as they'd like to be loved themselves. And in the process, they're helping prisoners replace anger and suffering and despair with faith and hope and love.

The bill I'm signing today, the Second Chance Act of 2007, will build on work to help prisoners reclaim their lives. In other words, it basically says: We're standing with you, not against you.

First, the act will authorize important parts of the administration's Prison Re-entry Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to help America's prisoners by expanding job training and placement services, improving their ability to find transitional housing, and helping newly released prisoners get mentoring, including from faith-based groups.

The past three years, congressional appropriations have supported the work in 20 states through a series of pilot programs awarded to community and faith-based organizations by the U.S. Department of Labor. The early efforts have fielded promising results. In the first two years of the program, more than 12,800 offenders have enrolled in the prisoner re-entry program. More 7,900 have been placed in jobs. Only 18 percent of those enrolled in the program have been arrested again within a year -- that's less than half the national average. We like to measure results, and the results of these pilot programs are very encouraging.

With the legislation I'll sign today, Congress has recognized the success of this good policy, and I thank them for their good work. Secondly, the act will support the Justice Department's ongoing work to help our nation's prisoners. This bill will help state and local governments, and Indian tribes, and non-profit groups implement programs that will improve the prisoner re-entry process.

These programs will provide further -- former prisoners with essential services, like housing and medical care. It will help develop prisoner drug treatment programs; support prisoner mentoring initiatives. It will support family counseling and other services to help prisoners re-establish their place in the community.

In both these ways, the Second Chance Act will live up to its name; will help ensure that where the prisoner's spirit is willing, the community's resources are available. It will help our armies of compassion use their healing touch so lost souls can rediscover their dignity and sense of purpose.

I recently went to a program in Baltimore, Maryland, called Jericho. I met a man there who has kindly joined us today named Thomas Boyd. He's 53 years old. He spent more than 20 years of his life using drugs and going back and forth to jail. He remembers the day when his daughter sat down, looked him in the eye and said, "Daddy, I think it's time for you to start doing something with your life."

He took his daughter's advice. He sought out the Jericho re-entry program, which is supported by the Re-entry Initiative. When I visited the program, I tried to remind them that the least shall be first. I also reminded him I was a product of a faith-based program. I quit drinking -- and it wasn't because of a government program. It required a little more powerful force than a government program in my case.

And he told me that he appreciates the love and compassion he felt -- feels on a regular basis. He's working, back with his family; he's a good guy. And I want to thank you for coming, Thomas. (Applause.)

I want to thank you for coming, Thomas. There's a lot of other Thomases out there that we're going to help with this bill. And so I thank the members of Congress for joining us. Thanks for your hard work. I thank the members of my administration who are going to see to it that the bill is implemented properly.

And now it is my honor to sign this important piece of legislation. May God bless the country, and may God bless those who are trying to help. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

(The bill is signed.) (Applause.)

###

## **Fact Sheet: President Bush Signs Second Chance Act of 2007**

April 9, 2008

*"America is the land of second chance, and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life."*

– President George W. Bush, 2004 State of the Union Address

**Today, President Bush signed into law the Second Chance Act of 2007.** The Second Chance Act (H.R. 1593) will help transform lives and build safer communities by helping prisoners who are returning to society break cycles of crime and start new lives. The legislation formally authorizes key elements of the successful Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI), announced by the President in 2004, to help prisoners effectively reintegrate into the community. Additionally, the Second Chance Act enhances drug treatment, mentoring, and transitional services for ex-offenders through partnerships with local corrections agencies and faith-based and community organizations.

### **The Second Chance Act Formalizes The Prisoner Reentry Initiative.**

**In his 2004 State of the Union address, President Bush announced the PRI to help released inmates find work and make a fresh start in life after prison.** Expanding upon the successful Ready4Work pilot program, PRI links returning adult nonviolent offenders with faith-based and community organizations that help them find work, connect with mentors, and avoid relapse into criminal activity.

- **PRI is yielding results for America's ex-offenders.** In the first two years of the program, more than 12,800 offenders have enrolled in the prisoner reentry program. More than 7,900 offenders have been placed in jobs. Only 18 percent of those enrolled in the program have been arrested again within one year – less than half the estimated national average.
- **PRI is a signature program of the President's Faith-Based and Community Initiative.** To meet the individual needs of recently released ex-offenders as they transition back to society, PRI connects these individuals with faith-based and other nonprofit organizations within their community.
- **PRI is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Labor (DOL) to help reduce recidivism in urban centers and other areas with the greatest need.**
  - DOJ grants are awarded to State agencies for pre-release services to partner anti-recidivism efforts with those of faith-based and community organizations.
  - DOL funds are awarded to faith-based and community organizations that provide a variety of assistance to returning prisoners, including workforce development services, job training, counseling, and other reentry services.
- **The law signed today assists States and local government entities, in partnership with nonprofit organizations, to establish prisoner reentry demonstration projects.** Demonstration projects include:
  - Education, vocational training, and job placement services
  - Coordinated supervision for offenders upon release, including housing and mental and physical health care
  - Programs that encourage offenders to develop safe, healthy, and responsible family and parent-child relationships

### **The Second Chance Act Extends The President's Vision For Ensuring Returning Prisoners Have The Opportunity to Start New Lives.**

**President Bush has championed prisoner reentry and other initiatives to transform lives and cut crime through programs like DOJ's Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI) and Anti-Gang Initiative, DOL's Ready4Work program, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Mentoring Children of Prisoners program.**

- **Along with delivering vital services, these programs advance innovation in reducing crime and breaking cycles of recidivism.** By funding social entrepreneurs to expand prisoner reentry programs that couple efforts of corrections agencies and nonprofit organizations, the Administration is providing venture capital to build effective reentry models that can be replicated at the State and local level.

###

## **National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2008**

### **A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America**

April 11, 2008

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week we highlight our dedication to protecting and strengthening the rights of crime victims and their families.

My Administration is committed to providing services and resources for victims of crime so that they can find justice, hope, and healing in their lives. To assist victims of domestic violence and their children, my Family Justice Center Initiative established comprehensive support centers in communities across the country. Through the Justice for All Act of 2004, we expanded DNA testing and enhanced the scope and enforceability of crime victims' rights. In 2006, I signed into law the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act to expand the National Sex Offender Registry, increase Federal penalties for crimes against children, and protect our children while on the Internet. I also support a Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the Constitution. Through these and other efforts, we can better protect our citizens and our communities.

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we recognize the advocates, counselors, and others who assist victims in their time of need, and the law enforcement personnel who work to bring offenders to justice. To learn more about victims' rights, Americans can visit [www.crimevictims.gov](http://www.crimevictims.gov). By working together, we can help protect crime victims and build a society that respects the life and value of every person.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 April 13 through April 19, 2008, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I encourage all Americans to promote awareness of victims' rights and advance this important cause.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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## **National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2008**

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

October 1, 2008

Our Nation has a moral obligation to work to prevent domestic violence and address its brutal and destructive effects. During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we underscore our commitment to helping individuals across our country who face such devastating violence.

My Administration remains dedicated to eradicating domestic violence and helping victims find the compassion, comfort, and healing they need. In 2003, I announced the creation of the Family Justice Center Initiative to help local communities provide comprehensive services at one location for victims of domestic violence. In 2006, I was proud to sign legislation that reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act to improve criminal justice responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The Department of Justice's Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Assistance Program also offers victims of violence counseling and transitional housing services so they can escape the cycle of abuse.

During this month, we rededicate ourselves to protecting vulnerable members of our society and ensuring domestic abusers are punished to the full extent of the law. We encourage victims of domestic violence and their families to seek assistance through Family Justice Centers and the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE. Together, we can help heal hearts and build a culture in which all Americans can pursue their dreams and realize the great promise of our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 October 2008, as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to reach out to victims of domestic violence and take action to make ending domestic violence a national priority.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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