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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Speech Draft	Remarks to the UNITY: Journalists of Color Convention	7	08/06/2004	P6/b6;
002	Memorandum	Solicitor General Recommendation for the Position of the United States in Supreme Court Affirmative Action Cases - To: POTUS - From: Harriet Miers	3	08/17/2006	P5;
003	Memorandum	Hate Crimes - To: POTUS - From: Karl Zinsmeister	2	05/02/2007	P5;
004	Memorandum	Cocaine Sentencing - To: POTUS - From: Karl Zinsmeister	2	01/27/2008	P5;
005	Memorandum	Possible question on legislation to amend the ADA - To: POTUS - From: Karl Zinsmeister	2	09/08/2008	P5;

COLLECTION TITLE:

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

Civil Rights 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]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) 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

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H.0010

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.

President Speaks at Brown v Board of Education National Historic Site

Remarks by the President at Grand Opening of the Brown v Board of Education National Historic Site
Brown VP Board of Education National Historic Site
Topeka, Kansas

May 17, 2004

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. Thanks a lot. Please be seated. Thank you all for coming out today. Cheryl, thank you very much for your kind introduction. I appreciate all the Brown family who are here. Justice Breyer. Governor Sebelius is with us today -- Governor, thank you for being here. Leader Frist; Senator Brownback and Senator Roberts from the great state of Kansas. (Applause.) Congressman Jim Ryun -- (applause) -- Congressmen Tiahrt, Moran, and Moore, as well, from Kansas. (Applause.) Congressman Elijah Cummings -- thank you for being here, Congressman. Proud you're here. (Applause.) Secretary Norton, and Secretary Paige, distinguished guests; and ladies and gentlemen:

I'm honored to join you at this historic place, to mark a day and a decision that changed America for the better, and forever. (Applause.) Fifty years ago today, nine judges announced that they had looked at the Constitution and saw no justification for the segregation and humiliation of an entire race. Here at the corner of 15th and Monroe, and at schools like it across America, that was a day of justice -- and it was a long time coming.

For millions of African descent, the experience of segregation began in chains and darkness beneath the deck of a ship. A terrible civil war ended their slavery, but did not end their oppression. Generations of African American citizens grew up, and grew old, under laws designed to demean them. Under the rule of Jim Crow, almost no detail of life escaped the supervision of cruel and petty men. The color of your skin determined where you could get your hair cut, which hospital ward you could be treated in, which park or library you could visit, or who you could go fishing with. And children were instructed early in the customs of racial division -- at schools where they never saw a face of another color.

This was codified cruelty, at the service of racism. Segregation dulled the conscience of people who knew better. It fed the violence of people with malice in their hearts. And however it was defended, segregation could never be squared with the ideals of America.

The legal challenges to school segregation began more than 100 years before the Supreme Court heard the case of Brown v. Board of Education. In 1849, African American parents brought suit against Boston's divided schools. Here in Kansas, segregation was challenged in several cases between 1881 and 1949. These early efforts did not bring victory; yet they inspired words and warnings that have spoken across the years. As Justice John Marshall Harlan wrote in his dissenting opinion in Plessy v. Ferguson: "In view of the Constitution, in the eye of the law, there is in this country no superior, dominant ruling class of citizens. The humblest is the peer of the most powerful. The law regards man as man, and takes no account of his surroundings, or of his color."

The fulfillment of that vision decades later fell to a small group of earnest and tenacious lawyers. Two of them would travel thousands of miles together in a 1929 Ford, driving from courthouse to courthouse, with Charles Hamilton Houston and young Thurgood Marshall typing briefs in the car. They documented the often poor conditions of black-only schools -- the holes in the roofs, and dirt floors that ran with mud when it rained. And they pursued a strategy to bring down the whole sorry structure of segregation, case by case.

Eventually, in December of 1953, Thurgood Marshall stood before the Supreme Court as counsel in a consolidated action involving four states and nearly 200 plaintiffs, including 13 families from Topeka, Kansas. Many legal arguments were advanced in the case. Yet the stakes were summarized in the brief Marshall presented to the Court. It stated, "Separate but equal is legal fiction. There never was, and never will be, any separate equality." The Court agreed. As the decision was announced, some were waiting to see which justices would be in dissent. The answer came when Chief Justice Warren declared that the opinion was unanimous. (Applause.)

The decision in Brown versus Board of Education did not end all segregation; did not even end school segregation for many years. The civil rights movement was still waiting on other heroes and cases and laws. Yet, all sides of the

equation knew that on May 17th, 1954, a line had been crossed in American history. The system of racial oppression in our country had lost its claim to legitimacy, and the rising demand for justice would not be denied.

Putting the Brown decision into effect would take presidential orders, and the presence of federal troops and marshals, and the courage of children. One of the children who integrated Central High School in Little Rock was Melba Patillo. She recalls white students after gym class turning her shower to scalding. Others broke a bottle and tripped her on the glass, leaving scars that remain today.

Yet, Melba has other memories, as well. She says, "I went in not through the side doors, but up the front stairs, and there was a feeling of pride and hope that, yes, this is the United States; yes, there is a reason I salute the flag; and it's going to be okay." (Applause.)

In the years after Brown, many would know the fears and insults this young woman had faced. A court can make an order, but it was a child that had to walk the gauntlet of slurs and jeers into a school. And America is still grateful to every child who made that walk. (Applause.)

In many ways, the events of those years seemed long ago. We tend to think of them as the distant dramas of a different country. Yet, segregation is a living memory, and many still carry its scars. The habits of racism in America have not all been broken. The habits of respect must be taught to every generation. Laws against racial discrimination must be vigorously enforced in education and housing and hiring and public accommodations. Many African Americans with no inheritance but their character need access to capital and the chance to own and build for the future. And while our schools are no longer segregated by law, they are still not equal in opportunity and excellence. Justice requires more than a place in a school. Justice requires that every school teach every child in America. (Applause.)

America has yet to reach the high calling of its own ideals. Yet we're a nation that strives to do right. And we honor those who expose our failures, correct our course, and make us a better people. On this day, in this place, we remember with gratitude the good souls who saw a great wrong, and stood their ground, and won their case. And we celebrate a milestone in the history of our glorious nation.

Thank you for having me. May God bless America. (Applause.)

#

President Commemorates 40th Anniversary of Civil Rights Act

The East Room

July 1, 2004

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all for coming, and welcome to the White House. I am so pleased you could join us to celebrate a great anniversary of justice and equality in America.

I appreciate members of my Cabinet being here, and a lot of members of my administration. I want to thank many of our distinguished guests who have joined us today. I'm so pleased to see Dr. Dorothy Hite -- thank you so much for coming. (Applause.)

We've got two Lieutenant Governors, Michael Steele and Jennette Bradley, with us. Thank you both for being here today. (Applause.) Marc Morial -- where are you, Marc? He must be somewhere. There he is. Thanks for coming. (Applause.) I didn't recognize you outside the "Big Easy." (Laughter.)

Lou Sullivan is with us. I'm honored you're here, Lou. Thanks for coming, sir. (Applause.) My friend, Bob Woodson, President of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, is here. Thanks for coming, glad you're here. (Applause.) Bill Coleman, former Secretary of Transportation, I'm honored you're here. (Applause.) Thurgood Marshall, Jr. is with us today. Thank you so much for being here. Appreciate -- I'm honored you're here. (Applause.) It's pretty neat to have a great father, isn't it? (Laughter and applause.)

I'm going to save one announcement for a little later, special announcement. But I do want to recognize Jack Valenti, who was the Special Assistant to President Lyndon Johnson. Jack, we're honored you're here. Thank you for coming. (Applause.)

Forty years ago, in many parts of America, basic rights were observed or denied based entirely on race. Offensive laws regulated every detail of society: where you can get your hair cut, which hospital ward you can be treated in, which park or library you could visit. A person looking for a job or even a place to stay the night could be turned away merely because the color of the skin. And that person had very little recourse under federal law. Forty years ago this week, that system of indignity and injustice was ended by the Civil Rights Act signed into law in this very room. (Applause.)

As of July the 2nd, 1964, no longer could weary travelers be denied a room in a hotel or a table at a restaurant. No longer could any American be forced to drink from a separate water fountain or sit at the back of a bus just because of their race. All discrimination did not end that day, but from that day forward, America has been a better and fairer country.

Today we have here on display, outside this room, the first and last pages of the Civil Rights Act, and one of the pens that Lyndon B. Johnson used for the signature. That law was a long time in coming, and before it arrived, the conscience of America had to be awakened. That conscience was stirred by men and women who held sit-ins at lunch counters, who rode the buses on Freedom Rides, who endured and overcame the slurs and the fire hoses and the burning crosses. The conscience of America was outraged by the ambush of Medgar Evers, by kidnappings and terror bombings, and by the murder of four young girls in a church on a Sunday. Our nation's conscience was moved by hundreds of thousands who marched right here in the nation's capital to demand the full promise of the Declaration and America's founding law.

President John F. Kennedy heard the voices of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and others, and took up the challenge. Five months before his death, the President said our nation was confronted with a moral issue as old as the scriptures and as clear as the American Constitution, and he called on Congress to pass civil rights legislation.

After President Kennedy was assassinated, some wondered if the new President, a son of the south, would carry forward the work of civil rights. Very soon they would know the answer. During the Senate debate on the Civil Rights Act, one of the longest debates in Senate history, President Lyndon Johnson used all his powers of persuasion, and they were considerable. (Laughter.) No one escaped the LBJ treatment -- (laughter) -- not senators, not their staffs, not even their families. "It is said that when President Johnson called reluctant senators at home and

a child answered, he would say, "Now you tell your daddy that the President called." (Laughter.) "And he'd be very proud to have your daddy on his side." (Laughter.)

It was more than the force of Johnson's personality that helped win the day, it was the force of President Johnson's conviction on behalf of a just cause. As a young man, he'd seen the ugly effects of discrimination. As President, he was determined to fight it by law, regardless of the political risk. One Southern senator warned him, "It's going to cost you the election." He replied, "If that's the price I've got to pay, I will pay it gladly."

Lyndon Johnson is known to history as the President who championed and signed the Civil Rights Act. And we recognize and remember the contributions of this strong Texan and great American. And we're honored to have his daughter, Luci Baines Johnson, with us today. We're honored you're here. Thanks for coming. I appreciate you coming. (Applause.)

We also remember the legislators of both parties who worked tirelessly to bring the bill to passage -- in particular, Senators Mike Mansfield of Montana, Senator Edward Dirksen of Illinois, and Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota. When it mattered most, these principled men rose to the responsibility of their time, and our nation honors them today.

After the Civil Rights Act became law, the change was felt immediately all across America. In 1964, Dale Long was a 12-year-old boy living in Birmingham, Alabama. One day, before the law was passed, Dale and his brother convinced their father to take them to a movie where blacks had to enter through an alley and could only sit in the upstairs balcony. "I could see the look of humiliation on my dad's face," he remembers. A few months after the Civil Rights Act, the Long brothers returned to that theater. As they remember it, they were with a friend. "We went to see a James Bond movie," Dale says, and this time they entered through the front door and sat where they pleased.

The indignity of Dale Long's first experience at that movie theater seems like something that happened many lifetimes ago. Yet, such experiences are within the living memory of millions of our citizens. These past four decades in American life give witness to the power of good laws to prevent injustice and encourage the finest qualities of our national character.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 gives all Americans another reason to be proud of our country. The work of equality is not done because the evil of bigotry is not finally defeated. Yet the laws of this nation and the good heart of this nation are on the side of equality. And as Dr. King reminded us, "We must not rest until the day when justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream."

I'm honored you all are here today. We'll have a reception on the other side of this beautiful house. Thank you for coming. May God continue to bless America. (Applause.)

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COPY FROM ORM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE ORDER SIGNING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Thursday, July 22, 2004

1:10 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

Oval Office

Margaret Spellings

I. PURPOSE

To highlight the importance of emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities, and to celebrate the fourteenth anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

II. BACKGROUND

On February 1, 2001, you announced the New Freedom Initiative – a comprehensive program to promote the full participation of people with disabilities in all areas of society by increasing access to assistive and universally designed technologies, expanding educational and employment opportunities, and promoting increased access into daily community life. This Executive Order reflects your ongoing commitment to ensure that Americans with disabilities are able to enjoy all the opportunities our Nation has to offer.

Individuals with disabilities may require special plans during times of emergency. This Executive Order emphasizes the importance of implementing emergency preparedness plans that accommodate individuals with disabilities.

The Executive Order also establishes the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities. The purpose of the Council is to help agencies and private individuals and organizations take into account the unique needs of individuals with disabilities in their emergency preparedness planning.

Today's event also is the fourteenth anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which is next Monday, July 26, 2004. The ADA is the most significant civil rights statute for the more than 54 million Americans with disabilities (who represent nearly 20 percent of the U.S. population).



THE DIRECTOR

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

July 15, 2004

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THE PRESIDENT
HAS SEEN

COPY
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Joshua B. Bolten
Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Executive Order Entitled "Individuals with Disabilities in
Emergency Preparedness" #13347

SUMMARY: This memorandum forwards for your consideration a proposed executive order prepared by the White House Domestic Policy Council. The proposed order creates an interagency council to promote and support the development of best practices by government agencies in addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities in formulating emergency preparedness plans.

BACKGROUND: September 11, 2001, raised awareness of the need to be prepared for all types of disasters and emergencies and the need for a coordinated response. The proposed executive order will create a process for inclusion and accommodation of individuals with disabilities in emergency planning and implementation.

To this end, the proposed executive order would create the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities (Council). The Council would oversee agency efforts to: (a) consider, in their emergency preparedness planning, the unique needs of agency employees with disabilities and individuals with disabilities whom the agency serves; (b) encourage consideration of the unique needs of employees and individuals with disabilities served by State, tribal, and local governments and private organizations and individuals in emergency preparedness planning; and (c) facilitate cooperation among Federal, State, tribal, and local governments and private organizations and individuals in the implementation of emergency preparedness plans as they relate to individuals with disabilities.

The Council would report to the President annually on its achievements in implementing these objectives; on current best practices for emergency preparedness planning with respect to individuals with disabilities; and on recommendations for further action.

VIEWS OF AFFECTED AGENCIES AND STAFF: The following executive departments, agencies, and offices do not object to the proposed executive order: (a) the Departments of State, the Treasury, Defense, Agriculture, HUD, Justice, Commerce, Transportation, the Interior, Labor, Education, Energy, HHS, VA, EPA, Homeland Security, and CIA, OPM, NASA, SBA, and GSA; (b) the EOP Offices of the Chief of Staff, Communications and Speechwriting, Legislative Affairs, Cabinet Affairs, Strategic Initiatives, Intergovernmental

2nd HHS signed 7-22-2004
To Archivist 7-23-2004

W N/A

Affairs, Presidential Personnel, White House Counsel, and HSC, DPC, USTR, OSTP, NEC, CEQ, ONDCP, CEA, and OA; and (c) the Office of the Vice President.

RECOMMENDATION: I join the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy in recommending that you sign the proposed executive order.

Attachments



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legal Counsel

Office of the Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

July 15, 2004

MEMORANDUM

Re: Proposed Executive Order Entitled "Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness"

The attached proposed Executive Order was prepared by the White House Domestic Policy Council. The Office of Management and Budget, with the approval of the Director, has forwarded it to this Department for review with respect to form and legality.

The proposed Executive Order would create the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities. The Council, chaired by the Secretary of Homeland Security, would coordinate agency implementation of the policy set forth in the Order. That policy requires that agencies (a) consider the needs of individuals with disabilities in their emergency preparedness planning; (b) encourage consideration of the needs of individuals with disabilities by state, tribal, and local governments and private organizations and individuals in their emergency preparedness planning; and (c) facilitate cooperation among federal, state, tribal, and local governments and private organizations and individuals in the implementation of emergency preparedness plans as they relate to individuals with disabilities.

The proposed Order is approved with respect to form and legality.

Noel J. Francisco
Deputy Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legal Counsel

Office of the Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

July 15, 2004

The President,

The White House.

My dear Mr. President:

I am herewith transmitting a proposed Executive Order entitled "Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness." The proposed Order was prepared by the White House Domestic Policy Council. The Office of Management and Budget, with the approval of the Director, has forwarded it to this Department for review of its form and legality.

The proposed Executive Order is approved with respect to form and legality.

Respectfully,

Noel J. Francisco
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

EXECUTIVE ORDER

13347

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to strengthen emergency preparedness with respect to individuals with disabilities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. To ensure that the Federal Government appropriately supports safety and security for individuals with disabilities in situations involving disasters, including earthquakes, tornadoes, fires, floods, hurricanes, and acts of terrorism, it shall be the policy of the United States that executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government (agencies):

(a) consider, in their emergency preparedness planning, the unique needs of agency employees with disabilities and individuals with disabilities whom the agency serves;

(b) encourage, including through the provision of technical assistance, as appropriate, consideration of the unique needs of employees and individuals with disabilities served by State, local, and tribal governments and private organizations and individuals in emergency preparedness planning; and

(c) facilitate cooperation among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and private organizations and individuals in the implementation of emergency preparedness plans as they relate to individuals with disabilities.

Sec. 2. Establishment of Council. (a) There is hereby established, within the Department of Homeland Security for administrative purposes, the Interagency Coordinating Council

on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities (the "Council"). The Council shall consist exclusively of the following members or their designees:

(i) the heads of executive departments, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Administrator of General Services, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the Commissioner of Social Security; and

(ii) any other agency head as the Secretary of Homeland Security may, with the concurrence of the agency head, designate.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall chair the Council, convene and preside at its meetings, determine its agenda, direct its work, and, as appropriate to particular subject matters, establish and direct subgroups of the Council, which shall consist exclusively of Council members.

(c) A member of the Council may designate, to perform the Council functions of the member, an employee of the member's department or agency who is either an officer of the United States appointed by the President, or a full-time employee serving in a position with pay equal to or greater than the minimum rate payable for GS-15 of the General Schedule.

Sec. 3. Functions of Council. (a) The Council shall:

(i) coordinate implementation by agencies of the policy set forth in section 1 of this order;

(ii) whenever the Council obtains in the performance of its functions information or advice from any individual who is not a full-time or permanent part-time Federal employee, obtain such information and advice only in a manner that seeks individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or consensus advice or deliberation; and

(iii) at the request of any agency head (or the agency head's designee under section 2(c) of this order) who is a member of the Council, unless the Secretary of Homeland Security declines the request, promptly review and provide advice, for the purpose of furthering the policy set forth in section 1, on a proposed action by that agency.

(b) The Council shall submit to the President each year beginning 1 year after the date of this order, through the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, a report that describes:

(i) the achievements of the Council in implementing the policy set forth in section 1;

(ii) the best practices among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and private organizations and individuals for emergency preparedness planning with respect to individuals with disabilities; and

(iii) recommendations of the Council for advancing the policy set forth in section 1.

Sec. 4. General. (a) To the extent permitted by law:

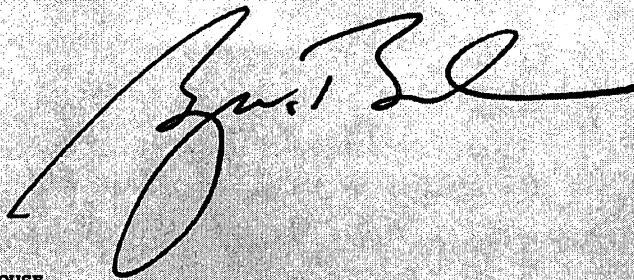
(i) agencies shall assist and provide information to the Council for the performance of its functions under this order; and

(ii) the Department of Homeland Security shall provide funding and administrative support for the Council.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(c) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or

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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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "George W. Bush", written in a cursive style.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

July 22, 2004.

###

Executive Order: Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness

Winnetka, Illinois

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to strengthen emergency preparedness with respect to individuals with disabilities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. To ensure that the Federal Government appropriately supports safety and security for individuals with disabilities in situations involving disasters, including earthquakes, tornadoes, fires, floods, hurricanes, and acts of terrorism, it shall be the policy of the United States that executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government (agencies):

(a) consider, in their emergency preparedness planning, the unique needs of agency employees with disabilities and individuals with disabilities whom the agency serves;

(b) encourage, including through the provision of technical assistance, as appropriate, consideration of the unique needs of employees and individuals with disabilities served by State, local, and tribal governments and private organizations and individuals in emergency preparedness planning; and

(c) facilitate cooperation among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and private organizations and individuals in the implementation of emergency preparedness plans as they relate to

individuals with disabilities.

Sec. 2. Establishment of Council. (a) There is hereby established, within the Department of Homeland Security for administrative purposes, the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities (the "Council"). The Council shall consist exclusively of the following members or their designees:

(i) the heads of executive departments, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Administrator of General Services, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the Commissioner of Social Security; and

(ii) any other agency head as the Secretary of Homeland Security may, with the concurrence of the agency head, designate.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall chair the Council, convene and preside at its meetings, determine its agenda, direct its work, and, as appropriate to particular subject matters, establish and direct subgroups of the Council, which shall consist exclusively of Council members.

(c) A member of the Council may designate, to perform the Council functions of the member, an employee of the member's department or agency who is either an officer of the United States appointed by the President, or a full-time employee serving in a position with pay equal to or greater than the minimum rate payable for GS-15 of the General Schedule.

Sec. 3. Functions of Council. (a) The Council shall:

(i) coordinate implementation by agencies of the policy set forth in section 1 of this order;

(ii) whenever the Council obtains in the performance of its functions information or advice from any individual who is not a full-time or permanent part-time Federal employee, obtain such information and advice only in a manner that seeks individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or consensus advice or deliberation; and

(iii) at the request of any agency head (or the agency head's designee under section 2(c) of this order) who is a member of the Council, unless the Secretary of Homeland Security declines the request, promptly review and provide advice, for the purpose of furthering the policy set forth in section 1, on a proposed action by that agency.

(b) The Council shall submit to the President each year beginning 1 year after the date of this order, through the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, a report that describes:

- (i) the achievements of the Council in implementing the policy set forth in section 1;
- (ii) the best practices among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and private organizations and individuals for emergency preparedness planning with respect to individuals with disabilities; and
- (iii) recommendations of the Council for advancing the policy set forth in section 1.

Sec. 4. General. (a) To the extent permitted by law:

- (i) agencies shall assist and provide information to the Council for the performance of its functions under this order; and
 - (ii) the Department of Homeland Security shall provide funding and administrative support for the Council.
- (b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.
- (c) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch 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.

GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE,

July 22, 2004.

#

President Emphasizes Minority Entrepreneurship at Urban League

Remarks by the President to the 2004 National Urban League Conference

Detroit Marriot Renaissance Hotel

Detroit, Michigan

July 23, 2004

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for the warm introduction. It's really good to be here. You know, Marc, you're right, the National Urban League is a vital and important part of the American scene. And I think the reason why is, not only is the mission important, but the people involved in the Urban League are dignified, decent American citizens. And I am honored to be in your presence.

I see some friends like Willard who is -- I don't know if you remember, Willard, but we were on the porch of the governor's mansion in Texas. I'm not saying you drank all my beer, but -- (laughter.) Never mind. (Laughter.) That's unfair. (Laughter.) But thanks for having me.

Marc, I appreciate your leadership. I've had the opportunity to work with Marc. I look forward to continue working with Marc. He's a good man. He cares deeply about the country, the people in our country. He is -- he has had a lot of experience. He has, after all, been a mayor. It's a heck of a lot tougher job than being President. After all, you've got to fill the potholes -- (laughter) -- and empty the garbage. And he did a fine job as mayor. He's doing a fine job for this very important organization.

Speaking about mayors, the mayor of Detroit was here. He's cutting a ribbon, which most mayors do. He's a fabulous mayor, by the way. He's standing a little taller, as if he needed to, because the Detroit Pistons are now the NBA champs. (Applause.) I told him, I said -- I asked Kwame if he took credit for it. He said, of course. (Laughter.)

I appreciate so very much Mike Critelli, who is the Chairman. Thank you, Mr. -- Mike, it's great to see you again. And Charles Collins, senior -- the Vice Chairman. These are distinguished gentlemen who are helping to lead a very distinguished board of directors. It was my honor to meet with members of the board before I came out here today. And I appreciate your service to our country.

Rick, thank you very much. Rick Wagoner is the CEO of General Motors, who is sponsoring this conference. I appreciate you doing that. It's an important conference and corporate America needs to stand up and help organizations that are out to help other people, and you've done so. And I know people here appreciate that.

I appreciate Reverend Ernest Ferrell's blessings. They asked me before the speech whether or not I would object to a prayer. I said, absolutely not. All of us need prayer, and I appreciate that. (Applause.)

And I appreciate Reverend Jesse Jackson. Thanks for coming, again. (Applause.)

And it's hard to run for office. Isn't it, Al? (Laughter.) Al Sharpton is with us. (Applause.) But I appreciate you putting your hat in the ring. (Laughter.) It's not an easy thing. It looks easy.

REVEREND SHARPTON: It's not over.

THE PRESIDENT: There you go. It's not over. (Laughter and applause.) Just don't declare right now. (Laughter.) Welcome. Glad you're here.

Thank you all for coming.

The thing I like about the National Urban League is you believe in the future of the African American community. You've got this great faith that the future is going to be better, and I share that. That's what I'm here to talk about. I believe the same thing.

I believe this country can and will be a place of opportunity and hope for every single citizen. It's not a given; there's work to be done. But it's a goal, and it's an important goal.

I don't care what party you're in, what city you live in, or what state you're from, the goal has got to be -- America has got to be an hospitable, hopeful place for every single citizen. That's what I believe. That's kind of the heart of what they call compassionate conservatism, that the American experience must be alive and viable for everyone, and that government has a role to help people have the tools so they can help themselves. See, I believe in the human spirit; I believe if people have the opportunity and the ability, they will achieve their God-given talents. That's what I believe. And I think that's a proper role for the federal government, to help people.

The last three-and-a-half years, we've worked on that. We've worked hard to make opportunity available and prosperity real and justice not a word. And I'm here to tell you, we're making good progress.

Progress for African Americans and all Americans require a healthy, growing economy. It's hard to realize dreams if -- if you're in a recession; it's hard to realize dreams if jobs aren't being created; it's hard to realize dreams if the entrepreneurial spirit is flat, at best, and that's not the case today.

It says a lot about our country that -- that we've recovered from a recession. Remember, the recession was started before September the 11th -- as a matter of fact, right as I came to office. The stock market had been declining for nine months. In other words, the indications weren't all that viable for the economy.

And then we got hit, and the attacks hurt. It hurt our psyche, it hurt our economy, it hurt the ability to find work. And then we uncovered the fact that some of our citizens forgot what it meant to be a responsible citizen. See, we had some CEOs in corporate America that didn't tell the truth to their shareholders and their employees. That also hurt the economy. It took confidence away from a system that requires confidence.

We acted. It should be clear now to all Americans that we're not going to tolerate dishonesty in the boardrooms of America. We expect the high standard, and there will be enforcement of law to enforce that standard.

So the economy went through a lot. But we acted. See, I happen to believe if people have more of their own money in their pocket, they're going to spend, save, or invest, and when they do, that revitalizes economic growth and entrepreneurship. That's what the tax cuts were all about. That's why we raised the child credit. If you happen to have a two-year-old son like Mark does, it enables you to be -- have more money in your pocket. We reduced the marriage penalty. What kind of tax code is it, by the way, that penalizes marriage? We ought to be encouraging marriage in the United States of America. (Applause.)

We reduced the 10 percent bracket; we reduced taxes on everybody. I think that's the fair way to do things. And as a result, the economy is growing. The economy, since last summer, has been growing at the fastest rate in nearly 20 years. That's the truth, and that's positive news. If people are looking for work, you've got to have an economy which is vibrant and growing.

And that's the case. We've added 1.5 million new jobs since August. There's more work to do, of course. Job opportunity isn't in every neighborhood and every corner of the country, I fully recognize that. But the economy today is strong, and it's growing stronger. And we've always got to remember why. I mean, inherent in the -- in new job creation is small businesses. That's the most important part of new job creation. See, most new jobs are created by the small business owners of America. And therefore, policy has got to recognize that. That's why we've got to have fair -- a fair legal system that doesn't -- these frivolous lawsuits make it awfully difficult for a small business owner to thrive.

We've got to have affordable health care. We must have trade policy that enables small businesses to sell products overseas. That says we're going to level the playing field. Listen, we can compete with anybody, anyplace, anywhere if the rules are fair, which is precisely what this administration is doing. They need less regulation on small businesses.

But remember about the tax policy in terms of small businesses. Most small businesses pay tax at the individual income tax rate. See, that's reality. Ask your friends and neighbors who are entrepreneurs. They will tell you they're either a sole proprietorship or a subchapter S corporation, which means they pay tax at the individual income tax rate. And so when you cut the individual income taxes, you're really helping small business owners. It's an entrepreneur -- we're stimulating growth and the small business sector of America today is alive and well. And more minorities are owning their own small businesses, and that's really good for the future of the country.

See, if you own something, you have a vital stake in the future of America. This administration promotes what I call the ownership society. When people tell me statistics, they say, more people are owning their own small businesses, and a lot of minorities are owning their own small businesses. That's really good news for the future of the country. It also happens to be really good news for the economy. The more small businesses there are, the more likely it is people are going to find work.

And there's more we can do to help people start their own businesses. The SBA has got a vital role -- that's the Small Business Administration. Loans to African Americans were up by 75 percent from last year. That's positive. In other words, somebody said, I need some help. They've come to the federal government. They said, I've got an idea, I want to start my own business, I want to say, I'm the owner. And the government says, we want to help you. It's a legitimate role to encourage ownership.

And that's what's happening right now in our society. We've rewarded \$6 billion in new markets tax credits. Those are important. They promote economic and community development in low-income areas. And when you do that, the spinoff is more ownership for businesses. When there's a vitality in a neighborhood that has been -- that needed help, new businesses spring up. That's all part of a vital tomorrow. Our plan is to help people help themselves, is to create an environment where the entrepreneur can flourish.

Marc, I read your comments, and the National Urban League is a partner in the \$127 million reward we announced in May this year just to do that, to create an environment where people have a chance to realize their dreams by owning their own business. (Applause.)

An interesting project that's going on inside inner cities, which makes life better but also helps the entrepreneurial spirit, is the cleanup of brownfields. Since I've come to office, we've cleaned up more than 1,000 brownfields. Those are old industrial sites which have been abandoned. They're not only eyesores, they're blight in the communities. They've been cleaned up. They're now viable pieces of property. Businesses are springing up -- businesses around, businesses are springing up. An integral part of stimulating economic growth and activity to give people a chance to start and own their own company is wise policy in the inner city, such as brownfields cleanup policy. We've been aggressive with brownfields, just like we have with empowerment zones.

What I'm telling you is, the role of government is to create an environment where people from all walks of life have a chance to realize their dream. And that's precisely what's taking place in America. And the economy is better for it, and more people are finding work, and we must not go backward to the days of high taxes, high spending, more regulation and more lawsuits, if we expect more people to own their own business.

Secondly, we've got work to do to encourage and train a new generation of entrepreneurs. And that's why I'm pleased to announce today that we're joining with the Urban League to expand minority business ownership. (Applause.) It's an interesting project. You can't say to somebody, you must be an entrepreneur. You can't say that. But you can say, if you want to start your own business, we'll help you. And I want to thank Marc's leadership on this and the board's leadership in understanding the need to work with the federal government to set up what they call one-stop centers where minority enterprise can receive business training. It's one thing to say, let's go be an entrepreneur. But if you're not certain how to do it, people need help. You may have a great idea, but you're not sure how to keep the books. It's a practical application of federal assets to help people understand how to own and run their own business. You can develop contacts there. You get advice on financing. It's practical ways to help people realize their dreams, is what we're talking about here.

The Business Roundtable, I'm pleased to say, those are the CEOs of big corporate America, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation -- he used to be the owner of the Kansas City Royals, he's a fine guy from Missouri -- will support the work of the centers. And so, in other words, it's a collaborate effort. The federal government, the Urban League and these other citizens are coming together and saying, we're going to set up these centers to help people help themselves. (Applause.)

Progress for African Americans, and progress for all Americans, requires good schools. (Applause.) The system tended to shuffle kids through, and you know what I'm talking about. You know, the hard-to-educate were labeled that, and they just moved through, that's what was happening. We can play like it wasn't happening. It was happening. That's what you get when you get low expectations. It's what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations.

When I first came to the Urban League, I vowed to change that attitude in Washington. It was one of the things I said. I said, give me a chance to work the education system. And we have. We passed good law. Listen, the government has got a funding responsibility. We have. We've increased federal funding for K through 12 by 49 percent from 2001. I label that significant. (Applause.)

But you know what else has changed? For the first time, the federal government is asking the question, can our children actually read? And see, I feel comfortable asking that question, because I believe every child can read. You don't ask that question if you believe certain children cannot read; you say, okay, fine, shuffle them through, the consequences of which, when people get out of high school, they're illiterate, they're lost, they're frustrated. They don't have a chance to realize the great promise of the country. We're changing that attitude in public schools.

We say, we're going to have local control of schools. I really don't want the federal government trying to run the school systems of America. I think that would be cumbersome, too bureaucratic, stifling. It wouldn't encourage innovation, it wouldn't say to the school boards, be imaginative and strong and smart.

We stand with our teachers. But we're going to measure now in America, because we want to know. Our goal is for every child to be reading at grade level by the third grade, because we believe every child can do that. And now we want them to show -- just please show us whether or not it's -- whether or not you're achieving the objective. Because every child matters, see. If you don't measure, you do not know. (Applause.) If you don't take time to determine whether or not a child has got the skills necessary to succeed in America, you'll never find out until it's too late.

The philosophy of the No Child Left Behind Act says, every child can learn, we expect every child to learn, and we expect you to show us whether or not every child is learning. (Applause.)

And it's paying off. The test scores, the accountability systems are beginning to show that African American fourth graders are catching up. There is an education gap in America and so long as there is an education gap, we must be relentless in our pursuit for excellence. (Applause.)

By the way, the law says that if -- we're going to detect problems early before they're too late and correct them, that's why we started measuring early. And there's money in the budgets that say, if you need extra help, we'll help correct them. It says to parents, that if the schools continue to fail, if they won't adjust, if a child is trapped in mediocrity, parents have different choices to make. See, this is all part of making sure we focus on the child, not the process, so no child in America is left behind. (Applause.)

And there's more to do. I'm working with Congress, hopefully over the next four years, for intensive reading intervention programs. It's one thing to start early, but there's a -- you can imagine there's a group of kids that need to be saved now before it's too late -- eighth and ninth grade intervention programs. I know in Florida, there's some great intervention programs. Willard, you'll probably take credit for them, but they -- (laughter) -- they're beginning to work well. They're good. It says we're not going to quit on any child. We're going to be involved.

We need to make sure a high school diploma means something. When a kid comes out of high school, an employer or community college, the college says, that means something when they hold up a high school diploma.

And so we've got to make sure we continue to work not only in the early grades, but in the later grades in public education so that people can say, I've got something that means something. It's a -- it's a certification for the ability to read, write, add, and subtract, to understand -- to understand the sciences and maths, as well. That's possible, see. You've got to think it's possible in the first place, otherwise you wouldn't insist upon it.

Plus, I want to make sure the community college system is vibrant. I put money aside and will continue to do so for the community colleges. They're available, affordable, they're accessible, they're good things, they can change their curriculum to meet the needs of a local community. They actually train people for jobs which exist. They're good opportunities for kids coming out of high school. Look, education is the future of the country. And that's why, under my administration, we've increased the number of men and women who will be receiving Pell Grants to nearly one million. (Applause.)

And why, under my budget, funding for historically black colleges is at an all-time high. (Applause.) It's what I said I would do when I was running for President, see. I told people I'd do that, and I've done it. And the country is better off for it, because education is the cornerstone of a hopeful tomorrow.

I was proud to support Mayor Tony Williams. He's my Mayor right now. I've got one mayor in Crawford and one mayor in Washington. (Laughter.) Tony is the Mayor of Washington. He's a very good Mayor, by the way. He's a good man. Maybe you know him. But he and I -- (applause.) I work with Tony. And I signed a bill into law creating taxpayer-sponsored scholarships for students in Washington, D.C. And let me tell you why. I believe this: If school choice is good for the wealthy, it's good enough for disadvantaged children in America. This is a good piece of legislation. (Applause.) It's a good piece of legislation, which is going to help improve education for all children in the nation's capital.

Progress for African Americans and all Americans depends on more citizens living the dream of owning their own home. There's nothing better than somebody saying, welcome to my house; I'm putting out the welcome mat in my piece of property. (Applause.) And this has been a focus of this administration, because we want people owning their own home. It's a vital part of the -- of the American experience, isn't it.

So we're providing downpayment assistance, good counseling. Listen, people walk in, first-time home buyers, and they take a look at the contracts and the print's about that big, and they say, forget it. You know? They get driven away by the complexity of the situation. Sometimes they get skinned by loan sharks, you know? And we're doing everything we can to make sure the loan application process is understandable and fair and open. We're proposing tax credits to encourage the building of more affordable housing, particularly in inner-city America. In other words, we want there to be a greater supply of homes. (Applause.)

Let me tell you something hopeful about the country. For the first time in our history, a majority of families and minority groups own their own homes. We're making progress. People are saying, this is my home. And we must continue the progress we're making. (Applause.)

Progress for African Americans and all Americans depends on safe streets. Safe streets are important for any -- any community, particularly important for communities in which parents feel like they've got to keep their kids locked in.

And so we're making progress there. We've increased federal prosecutors. And I want to tell you something, federal gun law prosecutions are up by 68 percent in the last three years. See, it's one thing to, you know, say, we're going to pass laws. The thing is, you've got to enforce the law. If you're going to want safe streets, you've got to do a good job of enforcing the laws on the books, which is precisely what we're doing. And as a result, violent crime in America is down by 21 percent during my administration. That's positive for people. (Applause.) Property crime is down 13 percent.

But there's more than just fighting crime. We need to help the 600,000 men and women who are being released from prison each year. I went to the Congress in my State of the Union, I talked about a prison reentry program. I said, put some money up to help these souls come out. Let's make sure we're the country of the second chance. Let's make sure people have got a chance to get an education and a job. Let's make sure there's -- if need be, let's make sure there's church families available to welcome a person back in community. (Applause.) And so this prison reentry program is a vital part of making sure America is a safe country. (Applause.)

Progress for this country, for African Americans, and all Americans, depends on the full protection of civil rights and equality before the law. My administration and its Justice Department has vigorously enforced the civil rights laws. The Civil Rights Division has opened a federal investigation into the murder of Emmett Till. (Applause.)

I'm the first President of the United States to ban racial profiling in federal law enforcement. (Applause.)

And to serve the cause of justice on the bench, the federal bench, I have nominated outstanding men and women to the courts, including six superbly qualified African Americans for the courts of appeal and 11 for district courts. (Applause.)

Progress for African Americans and for all Americans depends on driving the drugs out of our neighborhoods. We put forth a comprehensive approach. We're doing everything we can to interdict drugs so they don't make it into the country in the first place. We have encouraged faith-based programs to help change hearts so people change habits. (Applause.) We've got money directed at the people who need the most help, which are the addicts of America -- an intensive, focused, real effort to save lives.

But we're also working to reduce demand in the country. It's a community effort. We're bringing together all aspects of the community organizations to say to our youngsters, don't use those drugs. And we're making progress. From 2001 to 2003, youth drug use has declined by 11 percent. We're headed in the right direction. We're saying to our kids, be responsible with your bodies, be responsible with your behavior, and you have a chance to understand the great promise of America. It's a vital effort. This isn't a Republican cause or a Democrat cause; this is a community cause, this is an American cause and it's important to work together. (Applause.)

Progress for all our citizens, including African Americans, depends on the spirit of compassion for others. Government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in a person's heart or a sense of purpose in a person's lives. And we'll have the traditional programs of help, the safety nets. They're there. And that's an important part of federal funding. But I strongly believe the federal government must welcome programs of faith into the compassionate delivery of help and service to those who hurt. (Applause.)

My community and faith-based initiative recognizes the true strength of this country is in the hearts and souls of our citizens; that we recognize that oftentimes there's -- a change of heart will change behavior and governments can't change hearts. That changes when somebody who has heard a universal call to love a neighbor, puts their arm around somebody who hurts and says, I love you brother, I love you sister, what can I do to help you on your walk so your life is improved. (Applause.) This community and faith-based initiative is a vital part of this administration's program to help save lives. We've opened up federal grants to the faith community for the first time. I shouldn't say "for the first time." Most vigorously, let me put it to you that way.

And so now we've had over a billion dollars go out the door to faith-based programs, programs all aimed at serving America by saving lives. (Applause.) And it makes sense. It just makes sense. It makes sense to tap into the great strength and spirit of the country.

The Associated Black Charities of Baltimore, ask them what it's like to be a partner with the federal government. Or the Black Ministerial Alliance in Boston. Or the Metro Denver Black Church Initiative. These are all initiatives, all aimed at saying to somebody: the future is better for you, somebody loves you, we care, and we're going to help you. We're going to help mentor you, we'll save you from drugs and alcohol. We'll do everything in our power to save America one soul at a time. (Applause.)

We've done a lot in three-and-a-half years. I ask you to look at the record of accomplishment. And I didn't do this alone. I've got a good administration, really good people. It's a diverse Cabinet. It's a Cabinet full of strong people. It's a Cabinet who are serving our country first. People like Rod Paige. You've heard my talk about education. I hope you have a sense of my passion to make sure we get it right. I understand the importance of schools in America. I picked a good man to serve as the head of the Education Department, Rod Paige. He was -- (applause.) You heard me talk about owning your own home, it's a vital part of this future of this country. Alphonso Jackson is the head of the Housing and Urban Development. (Applause.) Kay James runs the Office of Personnel Management. You know, the government owns a lot of property. Steve Perry is the head of the GSA. (Applause.)

We've got a diverse cabinet, diverse administration, people who serve our nation with dignity. You know, when it comes time to money, Allen Greenspan is a smart guy, so is the Vice Chairman, Roger Ferguson, of the Federal Reserve. (Applause.) Chairman of the FCC, the Federal Communications Commission, Michael Powell -- in other words, what I'm telling you is -- (applause) -- I feel I have an obligation to reach out to people from all walks of life. I have met that obligation, and the government is better for it. (Applause.)

And when it comes to national security, thankfully I've had a good team. We've had some big challenges in this country. And I've got a strong foreign policy, because the architects of that policy are people like Condi Rice and Colin Powell. (Applause.) These are good people. I've seen them -- I've seen them under incredible pressure. I know their steadiness and their clear vision.

See, our most solemn duty is to protect the American people. That's our most solemn duty. It's a duty brought upon us not at our asking, because we were attacked unmercifully by people who hate what we stand for. They hate the fact that we can have free dialogue just like this. They hate the fact that there's open discourse. They hate the fact that we're a free society where people can worship any way they see fit.

They hate the idea that we welcome people who worship God and we welcome people who don't worship God. They can't stand the thought that we're a society that says, if you choose to worship, you're equally American, if you're a Christian, Jew, or Muslim.

And so they attacked us. And we have a duty, all of us have a duty to respond. This is an American effort to protect ourselves. And Colin Powell and Condi Rice have provided valuable, valuable advice and counsel during these tough times.

And we're making progress. Listen, we're trying to do everything we can to protect our homeland. There's people from all walks of life working hard to protect the American people. There's no such thing as perfect security. I tell people, we've got to be right 100 percent of the time. Those who want to cause us harm have to be right once. But there's a lot of people working. It doesn't matter what your party is, they're working hard to protect the American people. And we've got a lot of people overseas working to protect us, too, by bringing justice to the enemies before they strike again. (Applause.)

Our foreign policy is tough and it's compassionate. It's tough and we have to be tough, it's compassionate. We liberated over 50 million people who were brutalized by tyrants. We're proud to lead the armies of liberation. We're standing true to this great American ideal that freedom is the almighty God's gift to each man and woman in this world. (Applause.)

We've begun the largest initiative ever to combat global AIDS. America is in the lead on dealing with the pandemic that ravages the continent of Africa. We're taking the lead because we're a compassionate nation. We feed more of the hungry than any nation on the face of the Earth. We're a compassionate nation.

We're also a wise nation when it comes to smart policy. I signed the African Growth and Opportunity Acceleration Act of 2004. It recognizes that the best way to help lift people out of poverty is to trade, it's through the free flow of commerce. And it's working on the -- this policy is working on the continent of Africa.

Problems come to our desk because of our influence in the world. We've dealt with Liberia. We're now dealing with Sudan. The United States is working closely with the United Nations. As a matter of fact, the Secretary of State was recently with Kofi Annan talking about this very subject. We're working closely with the African Union to bring relief to the suffering people in that region. We've made our position very clear to the Sudanese government: They must stop the Janjaweed violence. They must provide access for humanitarian relief to the people who suffer. (Applause.)

Ours is a solid record of accomplishment. And that's why I've come to talk about compassionate conservatism and what I envision for the future. I'm here for another reason. I'm here to ask for your vote. (Applause.)

No, I know, I know, I know. The Republican party has got a lot of work to do. I understand that. (Laughter and applause.) You didn't need

to nod your head that hard, Jesse. (Laughter.)

Do you remember a guy named Charlie Gaines? Somebody gave me a quote he said, which I think kind of describes the environment we're in today. I think he's a friend of Jesse's. He said, "Blacks are gagging on the donkey but not yet ready to swallow the elephant." (Laughter and applause.)

Now that was said a while ago. (Laughter.) I believe you've got to earn the vote and seek it. I think you've got to go to people and say, this is my heart, this is what I believe, and I'd like your help. And as I do, I'm going to ask African American voters to consider some questions.

Does the Democrat party take African American voters for granted? (Applause.) It's a fair question. I know plenty of politicians assume they have your vote. But do they earn it and do they deserve it? (Applause.) Is it a good thing for

the African American community to be represented mainly by one political party? That's a legitimate question. (Applause.) How is it possible to gain political leverage if the party is never forced to compete? (Applause.) Have the traditional solutions of the Democrat party truly served the African American community?

That's what I hope people ask when they go to the community centers and places, as we all should do our duty and vote. People need to be asking these very serious questions.

Does blocking the faith-based initiative help neighborhoods where the only social service provider could be a church? Does the status quo in education really, really help the children of this country? (Applause.)

Does class warfare -- has class warfare or higher taxes ever created decent jobs in the inner city? Are you satisfied with the same answers on crime, excuses for drugs and blindness to the problem of the family? (Applause.)

Those are legitimate questions that I hope people ask as this election approaches. I'd like to hear those questions debated on talk radio, I'd like it debated in community centers, in the coffee shops. It's worthy of this country for this debate to go forward and these questions to be asked and answered.

I'm here to say that there is an alternative this year. There is an alternative that has had a record that is easy to see. If you dream of starting a small business and building a nest egg and passing something of value to your children, take a look at my agenda. If you believe schools should meet high standards instead of making excuses, take a look at my agenda. If you believe the institutions of marriage and family are worth defending and need defending today, take a look at my agenda. (Applause.)

If you believe in building a culture of life in America, take a look at my agenda. If you believe in a tireless fight against crime and drugs, take a look at this agenda. If you believe that our men and women in uniform should be respected and supported 100 percent of the time, take a look at my agenda. (Applause.)

If you're struggling to get into the middle class and you feel like you're paying plenty of taxes, take a look at my agenda. (Applause.)

If you're a small business owner who is trying to expand your job base and are worried about excessive lawsuits, increasing taxes and over-regulation, take a look at this agenda. (Applause.)

And finally, if you believe in the power of faith and compassion to defeat violence and despair and hopelessness, I hope you take a look at where I stand. (Applause.)

You see, I believe in my heart that the Republican party, the party of Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, is not complete without the perspective and support and contribution of African Americans. (Applause.)

And I believe in my heart that the policies and actions of this administration, policies that empower individuals and help communities, that lift up free enterprise and respect and honor the family, those policies are good for the nation as a whole. That's what I believe. And I'm here to thank you for giving me a chance to come and express those beliefs.

I'm proud to be with an organization that does so good, so much good for the American people. I'm honored that your Chairman would extend an invitation to me. Thanks for coming, and may God bless you and may God continue to bless the country. (Applause.)

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**COPY
FROM ORM**

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

REMARKS AT THE UNITY: JOURNALISTS OF COLOR CONVENTION

Friday, August 6, 2004
9:15 a.m. — 10:20 a.m.
Washington Convention Center
Washington, D.C.
Dan Bartlett

I. PURPOSE

To address representatives from UNITY: Journalists of Color, a coalition organization which includes the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the Asian American Journalists Association, and the Native American Journalists Association.

II. BACKGROUND

The UNITY Convention takes place every five years. This year's gathering is from August 4th through 8th. The first UNITY convention took place in Atlanta in 1994, and the second was in Seattle in 1999. Seven thousand journalists and media executives are expected to attend this year's convention.

Today's plenary session is sponsored by *Freddie Mac*. On Thursday, August 5th, Senator John Kerry addressed the group during their morning session, and Secretary Powell participated in a conversation with UNITY journalists.

You dropped by during exhibition time at the 1999 UNITY Convention in Seattle, Washington.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Ernest Sotomayor [SOH-toh-MY-or], President of UNITY and Long Island Editor,
Newsday.com (will introduce you)

Meet and Greet/Photo-op Participants

Esther Wu, Vice President of UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc., and Columnist and Staff
Writer, *The Dallas Morning News*

Anna Lopez, Executive Director, UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc.

Juan Gonzalez, President, National Association of Hispanic Journalists and Columnist,
New York Daily News

Herbert Lowe, President, National Association of Black Journalists and Staff Writer, *Newsday*
 Mae Cheng, President, Asian American Journalists Association and Immigration and Demographics Reporter, *Newsday*
 Patty Talahongva [TAL-ah-HONG-vah], President, Native American Journalists Association and Owner/Independent Producer, *White Spider Communications*
 Ivan Roman, Executive Director, National Association of Hispanic Journalists and San Juan Bureau Chief, *Orlando Sentinel*
 Renato Astudillo [AS-tu-DEE-oh], Executive Director, Asian American Journalists Association
 Tangie Newborn, Executive Director, National Association of Black Journalists
 Jeanne Mariani-Belding, Convention Co-Chair and Deputy Editor, *San Jose Mercury News*
 Ricardo Pimentel, Convention Co-Chair and Editorial Page Editor, *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*
 Richard Syron, Chairman and CEO, Freddie Mac (Sponsor of the Plenary Session)

Stage Participants

Note: These reporters will ask questions.

Joie [JO-ee] Chen, Washington Correspondent, CBS News
 (moderator of question and answer portion)

Mark Trahan, Editorial Page Editor, *Seattle Post Intelligencer*

Roland Martin, Columnist, *Chicago Defender*

Ray Suarez, Senior Correspondent, PBS's *News Hour with Jim Lehrer*

Approximately 7,000 journalists and media executives

White House Staff

COS: Joe Hagin, Deputy Chief of Staff

Press: Scott McClellan, Press Secretary

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- You arrive at the Washington Convention Center and greet the presidents and executive directors of the organizations that make up UNITY (13 individuals).
- You and Ernest Sotomayor are announced onto stage by off-stage announce.
 Note: Joie Chen, Mark Trahan, Ray Suarez, and Roland Martin will already be on stage.
- Ernest Sotomayor will introduce you, then departs stage.
- You deliver remarks.

- You conclude remarks and take questions from a panel of three reporters and a moderator sitting on stage. They will ask you one question each.
Note: Joie Chen and Mark Trahan will be seated to your right. Ray Suarez and Roland Martin will be seated to your left.
- Program concludes and you depart.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Speechwriting:

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Biographies of Stage Participants
Arizona Daily Star Article

Remarks to the UNITY: Journalists of Color Convention
Friday, August 6, 2004
Draft #6

- Thank you very much. It's an honor to welcome so many distinguished American journalists to the nation's capital. We have representatives from the worlds of radio, television, print, and online journalism. And I'm proud to be with members of the Asian American Journalists Association ... the National Association of Black Journalists ... the National Association of Hispanic Journalists ... and the Native American Journalists Association.
- I know all of you share an important goal: You believe there ought to be diversity in the newsroom, and on the editorial page, and behind the managing editor's desk, because America benefits from diverse perspectives. I have a goal as well: I believe there ought to be diversity in both political parties, because my party is better and stronger when different backgrounds are represented at the table. So in this campaign, I am asking minority Americans to look at my agenda and not let anyone take them for granted.

Acknowledgments

- [TK]
- I am the candidate of one party, but I am the President of all the people. The day I took the oath, I pledged to build a single nation of justice and opportunity. And I have taken that promise seriously. Unlike some Republicans, I believe government must take an active role in helping to improve the lives of citizens. Unlike some Democrats, I don't put my faith in bureaucracies that are distant and cold and unresponsive. I believe government should help individuals gain the tools and skills to improve their own lives, and to make the best of their abilities. And I believe the final measure of compassion is not intentions – it is results. And we have achieved solid results for Americans from all backgrounds.

Elementary Education

- America is a better nation when every child of every background learns the basics of reading and math that will give them a fair shot at success.
- People had talked about education reform for years. We have acted:

- No Child Left Behind Act – higher standards and accountability
- Funding to meet these standards
- 2005 budget:
 - K-12 funding up 49 percent over 2001 levels
 - Title One funding up 52 percent over 2001 levels
 - 1.1 billion dollars for Indian school construction and repairs since 2001 – more than double spending in previous four year period
- New choices for low-income parents. I was proud to sign into law the bill creating taxpayer-sponsored scholarships for students in Washington, D.C. If school choice is good for the wealthy and the middle class, it's good for the disadvantaged children of America.
- We are seeing the results:
 - The achievement gap in both reading and math is closing for African-American and Latino school children across America.
 - In about 73 percent of urban schools, African American fourth graders narrowed the reading achievement gap with white students.
 - In about 60 percent of urban schools, Hispanic fourth graders narrowed the reading achievement gap with white students
 - In Maryland, the percentage of African American third graders reading proficiently increased 16 percentage points last year alone – and Hispanic fifth graders improved their performance in math by nearly 10 percentage points in a year.
 - This spring I signed an Executive Order to help spread the gains under No Child Left Behind to American Indian and Alaska Native children.

Higher Education

- We have increased the number of men and women who will be receiving Pell Grants by nearly a million.
- Under my budget, funding for historically black colleges is at an all-time high.

Tax Relief

- America is a better nation when our economy is growing fast enough to create opportunity for everyone.
- We have acted:
 - Tax relief for families – marriage penalty, child tax credit.
 - Tax relief for entrepreneurs.

- Tax code is now more progressive – high income taxpayers pay a larger share of the overall tax burden than they used to.
- We are seeing the results:
 - About 111 million Americans pay lower taxes.
 - After-tax income is growing.
 - With tax relief, we've created [TK] million jobs since last August, and brought the unemployment rate down to [TK] percent – below the average rate of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.
 - A family of four with an income of 40,000 dollars now pays almost 2,000 dollars less in taxes.

Progress for Minority Entrepreneurs

- We increased the number of Small Business Administration loans to minorities by 40 percent last year alone.
- We requested a 21 percent increase in funding for the Minority Business Development Agency – the largest increase in more than a decade.
- Earlier this year, I established a presidential commission to expand business opportunities for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- And two weeks ago at the National Urban League Conference, I announced a new initiative uniting government, private sector, non-profit, and faith-based organizations behind a great goal – expanding minority business ownership and entrepreneurship.
- The entrepreneurial spirit in America is strong, and we can proudly say that more minorities are business owners than ever before.

Homeownership

- America is a better nation when more of our citizens achieve the great goal of home ownership.
- We have acted:
 - Two summers ago I set a bold goal to have 5.5 million new homeowners by the end of the decade.
 - We're offering down payment assistance ... good counseling to protect home buyers against predatory lenders ... and proposing tax credits to encourage the building of more affordable housing.
- We are seeing the results:
 - We learned this week that more minorities are now homeowners than ever before, and the overall homeownership rate is at an all-time high.

- We've now added more than 1.6 million new minority homeowners since I launched my homeownership initiative – and we're on pace to exceed our goal.
- Fifty-one percent of minority households – nearly 15 million in all – now own their home.
- More than half of all African Americans own their home.

Medicare

- America is a better nation when we keep our promise to care for citizens in their old age.
- For years, leaders in Washington debated Medicare reform. We have acted:
 - I signed into law the first prescription drug benefit in the history of Medicare.
- We are seeing the results:
 - Every senior citizen on Medicare is now eligible to get a drug discount card, which will immediately save them 15 to 30 percent off the retail price of most drugs.
 - Four million seniors are enrolled for a card.
 - Low-income seniors can get a 600 dollar credit right away.
 - And beginning in 2006, all seniors on Medicare will be able to choose a prescription drug coverage plan that suits their needs, and gives them the peace of mind they deserve.

Justice in our communities

- America is a better country when we uphold civil rights and equality before the law.
- During my Administration, the Department of Justice has vigorously enforced the civil rights laws.
- The Civil Rights Division has opened a federal investigation into the murder of Emmett Till.
- I am the first President of the United States to ban racial profiling in federal law enforcement.
- And to serve the cause of justice on the federal bench, I have nominated outstanding men and women to the courts – including ten superbly qualified African Americans and Hispanic Americans for the courts of appeals, and 30 African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans for the district courts.

Compassion for those in need

- America is a stronger country when we encourage the good works of faith-based groups that are saving and changing lives.
- We have acted:
 - I signed an Executive Order to end discrimination against faith-based groups.
- We are seeing the results:
 - Last year, we awarded more than 1.1 billion dollars in federal social service grants to faith-based groups.
 - Organizations receiving grants from my Administration for their good works include Associated Black Charities of Baltimore, the United Methodist Mexican American Ministries, the San Jose Cambodian Buddhist Society, the Navajo Nation, the Cherokee Nation, and the Kenaizze [kuh-NIGHT-see] Indian Tribe.
 - People of faith are transforming America one heart, one soul at a time. They deserve to know that the law will never discriminate against them again.

Vision for the Future

- This is the consistent record of three and a half years – not a series of promises for an election year.
- There is more to do.
- We've brought standards and accountability to our Nation's schools, and we should do more for high schools – because we can't give up on the teenagers heading toward graduation.
- We're creating jobs, and now we need to train more people to fill them.
- We're letting workers keep more of their paychecks, and now we need to let them keep more of their time, by passing comp time and flex time.
- We gave small business incentives to invest and expand, and now we need to give them more confidence by streamlining regulations and reforming the tort system.
- We've strengthened Medicare, and now we need to improve access and affordability in our health care system through medical liability reform and Association Health Plans, and by continuing to expand community health centers.
- More Americans own their own homes, and now we need to help more Americans own their own health care accounts and retirement accounts.
- We're implementing welfare reform, and now we need to encourage strong marriages and responsible fatherhood.

- We're protecting the rights of our minority citizens, and now we need to reform our immigration system. I have proposed reforms offering legal status to eligible temporary workers – so they can establish legal identities and come out of the shadows.
- We're making progress in the war on terror, improving our defenses at home, and spreading freedom in the world – and we need to continue all those vital missions.

Campaign

- In this campaign, I'm talking about our agenda for the future, and the results we've achieved for the American people. I know my party has some work to do to earn more votes among minority Americans – but I am determined to work hard and ask for every vote.
- I also think the other party has some work to do. A few weeks ago at the Urban League Conference, I asked some questions that apply to all minority Americans.
- Does the Democratic Party take minority voters for granted? Is it a good thing for minorities to be represented mainly in one political party? Have the traditional solutions of the Democratic Party truly served minorities? Does blocking the faith-based initiative help the neighborhoods where the only social service provider operates out of a church or other community organization? Does the status quo in education really serve minority children? Have class warfare or higher taxes ever created decent jobs in minority areas? Are minorities in this country satisfied with the same old answers on crime, and excuses for drugs, and blindness to the problem of family breakdown?
- I believe these are important questions. And in the coming months, I plan to give answers of my own. I hope you'll cover what I have to say, and debate it with your readers, listeners, and viewers back home. I firmly believe that every minority community – including African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans – will have a stronger voice in our country if they have a voice in both parties.
- And I believe that the policies of my Administration – policies that empower individuals and communities through better education and immigration reform ... policies that promote enterprise through tax relief and incentives for homeownership ... and policies that respect families and faith– are good for our entire Nation.

- Thank you very much for the invitation. Now I am happy to answer your questions.

Drafted by: Chris Michel, Office of Speechwriting
Office: 202/456-5860
(b)(6)



THE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

October 15, 2004

10-20-04
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

04 OCT 19 PM 4:43

FROM: Joshua B. Bolten
Director

COPY
FROM ORM

SUBJECT: Proposed Executive Order Entitled "Providing Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veteran Businesses to Increase their Federal contracting and subcontracting"

#13360

SUMMARY: This memorandum forwards for your consideration a proposed executive order that was prepared by the Office of Management and Budget. The proposed order directs agency heads to take certain actions to provide the opportunity for service-disabled veteran businesses to significantly increase the Federal contracting and subcontracting of such businesses.

BACKGROUND: In light of the extraordinary service rendered to the United States by veterans with disabilities, it is the policy of this Administration that heads of agencies shall provide the opportunity for service-disabled veteran businesses to significantly increase the Federal contracting and subcontracting of such businesses. To achieve this objective, agencies must more effectively implement sections 15(g) and 36 of the Small Business Act (Act). Section 15(g) of the Act requires the President to establish a goal of not less than 3 percent participation by service-disabled veteran businesses in Federal contracting. Section 36 of the Act gives agency contracting officers the authority to reserve certain procurements for service-disabled veterans.

To more effectively implement these provisions of the Act, the proposed executive order would direct agency heads to: (i) develop an agency strategy to implement the policy described above; (ii) make the strategy publicly available; (iii) designate a senior-level official responsible for implementing the strategy; and (iv) include in the strategy plans for reserving contracts exclusively for service-disabled veterans.

The proposed order would also: (a) direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to make available training in Federal contracting law, procedures, and practices to assist service-disabled veteran businesses in Federal contracting; (b) direct the Administrator of General Services to establish a Government-wide Acquisition Contract reserved for participation by service-disabled veteran businesses; and (c) direct the Secretaries of Labor and Veterans Affairs to ensure that relevant programs under their jurisdiction educate separating service members as to the benefits available to service-disabled veteran businesses.

Send/dtd. 10-20-2004
Anncd: 10-21-2004
To Archives. 10

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VIEWS OF AFFECTED AGENCIES AND STAFF: The following executive departments, agencies, and White House Offices do not object to the proposed executive order: (a) the Departments of State, the Treasury, Defense, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Commerce, Transportation, the Interior, Labor, Education, Energy, HHS, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, and EPA, CIA, OPM, NASA, GSA, and SBA; (b) the EOP Offices of the Chief of Staff, Communications and Speechwriting, Legislative Affairs, Cabinet Affairs, Strategic Initiatives, Intergovernmental Affairs, Presidential Personnel, White House Counsel, and HSC, NSC, DPC, USTR, NEC, CEQ, ONDCP, CEA, and OA; and (c) the Office of the Vice President.

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that you sign the proposed executive order.

Attachments

EXECUTIVE ORDER

#13360

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN
BUSINESSES TO INCREASE THEIR FEDERAL CONTRACTING
AND SUBCONTRACTING

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to strengthen opportunities in Federal contracting for service-disabled veteran businesses, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. America honors the extraordinary service rendered to the United States by veterans with disabilities incurred or aggravated in the line of duty during active service with the armed forces. Heads of agencies shall provide the opportunity for service-disabled veteran businesses to significantly increase the Federal contracting and subcontracting of such businesses. To achieve that objective, agencies shall more effectively implement section 15(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)), which provides that the President must establish a goal of not less than 3 percent for participation by service-disabled veteran businesses in Federal contracting, and section 36 of that Act (15 U.S.C. 657f), which gives agency contracting officers the authority to reserve certain procurements for service-disabled veteran businesses.

Sec. 2. Duties of Agency Heads. To implement the policy set forth in section 1, heads of agencies shall:

- (a) develop a strategy to implement the policy set forth in section 1;
- (b) make the agency's strategy publicly available and report annually to the Administrator of the Small Business Administration on implementation of the agency's strategy;
- (c) designate a senior-level official who shall be responsible for developing and implementing the agency's strategy;

(d) include development and implementation of the agency's strategy and achievements in furtherance of the strategy as significant elements in any performance plans of the agency's designated agency senior-level official, chief acquisition officer, and director of small and disadvantaged business utilization; and

(e) include in the agency's strategy plans for:

- (i) reserving agency contracts exclusively for service-disabled veteran businesses;
- (ii) encouraging and facilitating participation by service-disabled veteran businesses in competitions for award of agency contracts;
- (iii) encouraging agency contractors to subcontract with service-disabled veteran businesses and actively monitoring and evaluating agency contractors' efforts to do so;
- (iv) training agency personnel on applicable law and policies relating to participation of service-disabled veteran businesses in Federal contracting; and
- (v) disseminating information to service-disabled veteran businesses that would assist these businesses in participating in awards of agency contracts.

Sec. 2. Additional Duties of Administrator of the Small Business Administration. The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall:

- (a) designate an appropriate entity within the Small Business Administration that shall, in coordination with the Veterans Affairs' Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE), provide to service-disabled veteran businesses information and assistance concerning participation in Federal contracting;

(b) advise and assist heads of agencies in their implementation of section 2 of this order; and

(c) make available to service-disabled veteran businesses training in Federal contracting law, procedures, and practices that would assist such businesses in participating in Federal contracting.

Sec. 4. Additional Duties of Administrator of General Services. The Administrator of General Services shall:

(a) establish a Government-wide Acquisition Contract reserved for participation by service-disabled veteran businesses; and

(b) assist service-disabled veteran businesses to be included in Federal Supply Schedules.

Sec. 5. Additional Duties of the Secretary of Defense. The Secretary of Defense shall direct the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) to develop training on contracting with service-disabled veteran businesses and make this training available on line through the DAU continuous learning program.

Sec. 6. Additional Duties of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall assist agencies by making available services of the CVE and assist in verifying the accuracy of contractor registration databases with regard to service-disabled veteran businesses.

Sec. 7. Additional Duties of the Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, respectively, direct the Transition Assistance Program and the Disability Transition Assistance Program to educate separating service members as to the benefits available to service-disabled veteran businesses and as to potential entrepreneurial opportunities.

Sec. 2. Definitions. As used in this order:

(a) the term "agency" means an "executive agency" as that term is defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, excluding an executive agency that has fewer than 500 employees, the Government Accountability Office, or a Government corporation;

(b) the term "service-disabled" means, with respect to disability, that the disability was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active service in the United States Armed Forces;

(c) the term "service-disabled veteran" means a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(2), with a disability that is service-connected, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(16);

(d) the term "service-disabled veteran business" means a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, as defined in section 3(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(g)); and

(e) the term "small business concern" has the meaning specified in section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)) and the definitions and standards issued under that section.

Sec. 2. General Provisions. (a) Heads of agencies shall carry out duties assigned by sections 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of this order to the extent consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(b) To the extent permitted by law, an agency shall disclose personally identifying information on service-disabled veterans to other agencies who require such information in order to discharge their responsibilities under this order.

(c) An agency that consists of a multi-member commission shall implement this order to the extent it determines appropriate to the accomplishment of the agency's mission.

(d) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
October 20, 2004.



###

Executive Order: Service-Disabled Veterans Executive Order

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to strengthen opportunities in Federal contracting for service-disabled veteran businesses, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. America honors the extraordinary service rendered to the United States by veterans with disabilities incurred or aggravated in the line of duty during active service with the armed forces. Heads of agencies shall provide the opportunity for service-disabled veteran businesses to significantly increase the Federal contracting and subcontracting of such businesses. To achieve that objective, agencies shall more effectively implement section 15(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)), which provides that the President must establish a goal of not less than 3 percent for participation by service-disabled veteran businesses in Federal contracting, and section 36 of that Act (15 U.S.C. 657f), which gives agency contracting officers the authority to reserve certain procurements for service-disabled veteran businesses.

Sec. 2. Duties of Agency Heads. To implement the policy set forth in section 1, heads of agencies shall:

- (a) develop a strategy to implement the policy set forth in section 1;
- (b) make the agency's strategy publicly available and report annually to the Administrator of the Small Business Administration on implementation of the agency's strategy;
- (c) designate a senior-level official who shall be responsible for developing and implementing the agency's strategy;
- (d) include development and implementation of the agency's strategy and achievements in furtherance of the strategy as significant elements in any performance plans of the agency's designated agency senior-level official, chief acquisition officer, and director of small and disadvantaged business utilization; and
- (e) include in the agency's strategy plans for:
 - (i) reserving agency contracts exclusively for service-disabled veteran businesses;
 - (ii) encouraging and facilitating participation by service-disabled veteran businesses in competitions for award of agency contracts;
 - (iii) encouraging agency contractors to subcontract with service-disabled veteran businesses and actively monitoring and evaluating agency contractors' efforts to do so;
 - (iv) training agency personnel on applicable law and policies relating to participation of service-disabled veteran businesses in Federal contracting; and
 - (v) disseminating information to service-disabled veteran businesses that would assist these businesses in participating in awards of agency contracts.

Sec. 3. Additional Duties of Administrator of the Small Business Administration. The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall:

- (a) designate an appropriate entity within the Small Business Administration that shall, in coordination with the Veterans Affairs' Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE), provide to service-disabled veteran businesses information and assistance concerning participation in Federal contracting;
- (b) advise and assist heads of agencies in their implementation of section 2 of this order; and
- (c) make available to service-disabled veteran businesses training in Federal contracting law, procedures, and practices that would assist such businesses in participating in Federal contracting.

Sec. 4. Additional Duties of Administrator of General Services. The Administrator of General Services shall:

(a) establish a Government-wide Acquisition Contract reserved for participation by service-disabled veteran businesses; and

(b) assist service-disabled veteran businesses to be included in Federal Supply Schedules.

Sec. 5. Additional Duties of the Secretary of Defense. The Secretary of Defense shall direct the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) to develop training on contracting with service-disabled veteran businesses and make this training available on line through the DAU continuous learning program.

Sec. 6. Additional Duties of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall assist agencies by making available services of the CVE and assist in verifying the accuracy of contractor registration databases with regard to service-disabled veteran businesses.

Sec. 7. Additional Duties of the Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, respectively, direct the Transition Assistance Program and the Disability Transition Assistance Program to educate separating service members as to the benefits available to service-disabled veteran businesses and as to potential entrepreneurial opportunities.

Sec. 8. Definitions. As used in this order:

(a) the term "agency" means an "executive agency" as that term is defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, excluding an executive agency that has fewer than 500 employees, the Government Accountability Office, or a Government corporation;

(b) the term "service-disabled" means, with respect to disability, that the disability was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active service in the United States Armed Forces;

(c) the term "service-disabled veteran" means a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(2), with a disability that is service-connected, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(16);

(d) the term "service-disabled veteran business" means a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, as defined in section 3(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)); and

(e) the term "small business concern" has the meaning specified in section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)) and the definitions and standards issued under that section.

Sec. 9. General Provisions. (a) Heads of agencies shall carry out duties assigned by sections 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of this order to the extent consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(b) To the extent permitted by law, an agency shall disclose personally identifying information on service-disabled veterans to other agencies who require such information in order to discharge their responsibilities under this order.

(c) An agency that consists of a multi-member commission shall implement this order to the extent it determines appropriate to the accomplishment of the agency's mission.

(d) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

GEORGE W. BUSH
THE WHITE HOUSE,
October 20, 2004.

#

President Sworn-In to Second Term

January 20, 2005

Vice President Cheney, Mr. Chief Justice, President Carter, President Bush, President Clinton, reverend clergy, distinguished guests, fellow citizens:

On this day, prescribed by law and marked by ceremony, we celebrate the durable wisdom of our Constitution, and recall the deep commitments that unite our country. I am grateful for the honor of this hour, mindful of the consequential times in which we live, and determined to fulfill the oath that I have sworn and you have witnessed.

At this second gathering, our duties are defined not by the words I use, but by the history we have seen together. For a half century, America defended our own freedom by standing watch on distant borders. After the shipwreck of communism came years of relative quiet, years of repose, years of sabbatical - and then there came a day of fire.

We have seen our vulnerability - and we have seen its deepest source. For as long as whole regions of the world simmer in resentment and tyranny - prone to ideologies that feed hatred and excuse murder - violence will gather, and multiply in destructive power, and cross the most defended borders, and raise a mortal threat. There is only one force of history that can break the reign of hatred and resentment, and expose the pretensions of tyrants, and reward the hopes of the decent and tolerant, and that is the force of human freedom.

We are led, by events and common sense, to one conclusion: The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands. The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world.

America's vital interests and our deepest beliefs are now one. From the day of our Founding, we have proclaimed that every man and woman on this earth has rights, and dignity, and matchless value, because they bear the image of the Maker of Heaven and earth. Across the generations we have proclaimed the imperative of self-government, because no one is fit to be a master, and no one deserves to be a slave. Advancing these ideals is the mission that created our Nation. It is the honorable achievement of our fathers. Now it is the urgent requirement of our nation's security, and the calling of our time.

So it is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world.

This is not primarily the task of arms, though we will defend ourselves and our friends by force of arms when necessary. Freedom, by its nature, must be chosen, and defended by citizens, and sustained by the rule of law and the protection of minorities. And when the soul of a nation finally speaks, the institutions that arise may reflect customs and traditions very different from our own. America will not impose our own style of government on the unwilling. Our goal instead is to help others find their own voice, attain their own freedom, and make their own way.

The great objective of ending tyranny is the concentrated work of generations. The difficulty of the task is no excuse for avoiding it. America's influence is not unlimited, but fortunately for the oppressed, America's influence is considerable, and we will use it confidently in freedom's cause.

My most solemn duty is to protect this nation and its people against further attacks and emerging threats. Some have unwisely chosen to test America's resolve, and have found it firm.

We will persistently clarify the choice before every ruler and every nation: The moral choice between oppression, which is always wrong, and freedom, which is eternally right. America will not pretend that jailed dissidents prefer their chains, or that women welcome humiliation and servitude, or that any human being aspires to live at the mercy of bullies.

We will encourage reform in other governments by making clear that success in our relations will require the decent treatment of their own people. America's belief in human dignity will guide our policies, yet rights must be more

than the grudging concessions of dictators; they are secured by free dissent and the participation of the governed. In the long run, there is no justice without freedom, and there can be no human rights without human liberty.

Some, I know, have questioned the global appeal of liberty - though this time in history, four decades defined by the swiftest advance of freedom ever seen, is an odd time for doubt. Americans, of all people, should never be surprised by the power of our ideals. Eventually, the call of freedom comes to every mind and every soul. We do not accept the existence of permanent tyranny because we do not accept the possibility of permanent slavery. Liberty will come to those who love it.

Today, America speaks anew to the peoples of the world:

All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: the United States will not ignore your oppression, or excuse your oppressors. When you stand for your liberty, we will stand with you.

Democratic reformers facing repression, prison, or exile can know: America sees you for who you are: the future leaders of your free country.

The rulers of outlaw regimes can know that we still believe as Abraham Lincoln did: "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves; and, under the rule of a just God, cannot long retain it."

The leaders of governments with long habits of control need to know: To serve your people you must learn to trust them. Start on this journey of progress and justice, and America will walk at your side.

And all the allies of the United States can know: we honor your friendship, we rely on your counsel, and we depend on your help. Division among free nations is a primary goal of freedom's enemies. The concerted effort of free nations to promote democracy is a prelude to our enemies' defeat.

Today, I also speak anew to my fellow citizens:

From all of you, I have asked patience in the hard task of securing America, which you have granted in good measure. Our country has accepted obligations that are difficult to fulfill, and would be dishonorable to abandon. Yet because we have acted in the great liberating tradition of this nation, tens of millions have achieved their freedom. And as hope kindles hope, millions more will find it. By our efforts, we have lit a fire as well - a fire in the minds of men. It warms those who feel its power, it burns those who fight its progress, and one day this untamed fire of freedom will reach the darkest corners of our world.

A few Americans have accepted the hardest duties in this cause - in the quiet work of intelligence and diplomacy ... the idealistic work of helping raise up free governments ... the dangerous and necessary work of fighting our enemies. Some have shown their devotion to our country in deaths that honored their whole lives - and we will always honor their names and their sacrifice.

All Americans have witnessed this idealism, and some for the first time. I ask our youngest citizens to believe the evidence of your eyes. You have seen duty and allegiance in the determined faces of our soldiers. You have seen that life is fragile, and evil is real, and courage triumphs. Make the choice to serve in a cause larger than your wants, larger than yourself - and in your days you will add not just to the wealth of our country, but to its character.

America has need of idealism and courage, because we have essential work at home - the unfinished work of American freedom. In a world moving toward liberty, we are determined to show the meaning and promise of liberty.

In America's ideal of freedom, citizens find the dignity and security of economic independence, instead of laboring on the edge of subsistence. This is the broader definition of liberty that motivated the Homestead Act, the Social Security Act, and the G.I. Bill of Rights. And now we will extend this vision by reforming great institutions to serve the needs of our time. To give every American a stake in the promise and future of our country, we will bring the highest standards to our schools, and build an ownership society. We will widen the ownership of homes and businesses, retirement savings and health insurance - preparing our people for the challenges of life in a free society. By making every citizen an agent of his or her own destiny, we will give our fellow Americans greater freedom from want and fear, and make our society more prosperous and just and equal.

In America's ideal of freedom, the public interest depends on private character - on integrity, and tolerance toward others, and the rule of conscience in our own lives. Self-government relies, in the end, on the governing of the self. That edifice of character is built in families, supported by communities with standards, and sustained in our national life by the truths of Sinai, the Sermon on the Mount, the words of the Koran, and the varied faiths of our people. Americans move forward in every generation by reaffirming all that is good and true that came before - ideals of justice and conduct that are the same yesterday, today, and forever.

In America's ideal of freedom, the exercise of rights is ennobled by service, and mercy, and a heart for the weak. Liberty for all does not mean independence from one another. Our nation relies on men and women who look after a neighbor and surround the lost with love. Americans, at our best, value the life we see in one another, and must always remember that even the unwanted have worth. And our country must abandon all the habits of racism, because we cannot carry the message of freedom and the baggage of bigotry at the same time.

From the perspective of a single day, including this day of dedication, the issues and questions before our country are many. From the viewpoint of centuries, the questions that come to us are narrowed and few. Did our generation advance the cause of freedom? And did our character bring credit to that cause?

These questions that judge us also unite us, because Americans of every party and background, Americans by choice and by birth, are bound to one another in the cause of freedom. We have known divisions, which must be healed to move forward in great purposes - and I will strive in good faith to heal them. Yet those divisions do not define America. We felt the unity and fellowship of our nation when freedom came under attack, and our response came like a single hand over a single heart. And we can feel that same unity and pride whenever America acts for good, and the victims of disaster are given hope, and the unjust encounter justice, and the captives are set free.

We go forward with complete confidence in the eventual triumph of freedom. Not because history runs on the wheels of inevitability; it is human choices that move events. Not because we consider ourselves a chosen nation; God moves and chooses as He wills. We have confidence because freedom is the permanent hope of mankind, the hunger in dark places, the longing of the soul. When our Founders declared a new order of the ages; when soldiers died in wave upon wave for a union based on liberty; when citizens marched in peaceful outrage under the banner "Freedom Now" - they were acting on an ancient hope that is meant to be fulfilled. History has an ebb and flow of justice, but history also has a visible direction, set by liberty and the Author of Liberty.

When the Declaration of Independence was first read in public and the Liberty Bell was sounded in celebration, a witness said, "It rang as if it meant something." In our time it means something still. America, in this young century, proclaims liberty throughout all the world, and to all the inhabitants thereof. Renewed in our strength - tested, but not weary - we are ready for the greatest achievements in the history of freedom.

May God bless you, and may He watch over the United States of America.

###

Fact Sheet: Ensuring Justice and Fairness for All Americans

Presidential Action

February 2, 2005

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.

###

**COPY
FROM ORM**

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

7/14/05

July 13, 2005

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CLAUDE A. ALLEN
FROM: ALLYSON HO
SUBJECT: Update on Increasing Opportunity for African Americans

Purpose

To update you on the Administration's progress in increasing opportunity for African Americans.

Progress

Education. Thanks to the No Child Left Behind Act, the achievement gap between African American students and their peers has narrowed significantly. A 2005 Center on Education Policy study found that 73 percent of states reported improved student achievement. And a 2005 study by the Council of Great City Schools found that achievement gaps are closing in urban schools across the country. In math, 57.5 percent of all grades tested had reduced the achievement gap between white and African American students; in reading, 63.8 percent of all grades tested had reduced the achievement gap. This year's National Assessment of Educational Progress shows that while reading scores for white students rose 5 points, the scores for African American students rose even faster (by 14 points), so that the reading score achievement gap decreased from 35 points in 1999 to 26 points in 2004. Average math scores for African American students at ages 9 and 13 were higher than in any previous assessment year.

School Choice. Thanks to your efforts to pass the first Federally funded school-choice program in the District of Columbia, over 1,000 low-income students in the District have been able to attend the private school of their choice during the 2004-2005 school year. Next year, nearly 2,000 students will receive scholarships under this program once it is fully implemented.

Faith-Based Initiative. In many urban neighborhoods, the only providers of social services are African American churches. Previously, they were required to secularize if they wanted to compete for grants, and they lacked technical expertise to navigate the Federal grant process. Your 2002 "Equal Treatment" Executive Order and the Compassion Capital Fund you established have removed these barriers, and grant funds are flowing to African American religious charities. Further, your initiatives on prisoner re-entry, access to drug recovery treatment, mentoring children of prisoners, and gang prevention have addressed issues of critical

importance to African American communities. This month you received a letter from 30 of the most prominent African American pastors stating their support for your faith-based initiative.

Promoting Healthy Marriages and Responsible Fatherhood. Your FY 2006 budget directs \$240 million in mandatory funds to develop innovative approaches to promote healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood. This includes \$40 million for a new fatherhood initiative to be awarded in competitive grants to faith-based and community organizations for skill-based marriage and parenting education, and other services that help fathers provide emotional and financial support to their children.

Helping America's Youth. You and the First Lady are committed to highlighting the importance of focusing on at-risk youth, especially boys; educating parents and communities on the importance of promoting positive youth development; and informing parents and communities of strong and successful prevention and intervention programs that work by drawing attention to initiatives from around the country and identifying successful ways to connect at-risk youth with parents, their school, and their community.

In addition, your focus on young Americans will include support for programs that help youth overcome the specific risk of gang influence and involvement. In the FY 2006 budget, you proposed a three-year, \$150-million initiative to help youth at risk of gang influence and involvement through grants to faith-based and community organizations. These organizations will provide a positive model for youth – by, among other things, promoting respect for women and rejection of violence.

Homeownership and Access to Capital. Since your 2002 announcement of the goal to increase minority homeownership by 5.5 million homeowners before the end of the decade, 2.3 million additional minorities have become homeowners. Homeownership has reached an all-time high in this Administration. In 2003, for the first time, most minority families owned their own homes. Today, there are over 6 million African American homeowners.

Your Administration has been vigilant in ensuring that all Americans have equal access to the capital markets that allow small businesses to grow and prosper. In 2004, the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department brought two fair lending cases challenging discriminatory practices, including claims that a bank discriminated on the basis of race in making business loans.

Widening Business Ownership. In July 2004, you announced an initiative to encourage minority entrepreneurship, particularly among African Americans. The Urban Entrepreneur Partnership unites the Federal government with the National Urban League, Business Roundtable, Kauffman Foundation, and others to train, encourage, and open doors for inner city entrepreneurs. The first one-stop center will open July 18 in Kansas City as a model for the other centers planned across the Nation. NEC staff is directing the early stages of this unprecedented, private-sector-funded initiative.

Social Security. You have called for reforms that will keep Social Security's promises to today's seniors and those near retirement while simultaneously giving younger workers a chance to save in voluntary personal retirement accounts. African Americans are disadvantaged by the current

Social Security system in important ways. For example, because they have shorter life expectancies than white or Hispanic Americans, African Americans receive far fewer Social Security retirement benefits than their counterparts.

While an important goal is to address these gaps in life expectancy, you have committed to creating a more equitable Social Security system. The inheritable aspect of personal accounts would be of especial benefit to African American families. Some African American groups have expressed concerns that Social Security reform would mean cuts in disability benefits, which African Americans receive disproportionately more than white or Hispanic Americans, or an erosion of protections for low-income Americans. Your policies address this concern by leaving disability benefits untouched, while embracing "progressive growth" to provide faster benefit growth for lower-income households.

Health Care. Thanks to the recently enacted Medicare Modernization Act (MMA), starting in January 2006, 700,000 newly covered African American Medicare beneficiaries will gain access to prescription drug coverage. The poorest African American beneficiaries will pay no premium, no deductibles, and only nominal cost-sharing for prescription drugs. An additional 1.5 million low-income African American beneficiaries will receive substantial help with premiums, deductibles, and co-payments. MMA also expands the Medicare Advantage program, which offers coverage that is popular among minority beneficiaries, especially those who cannot afford to buy supplemental medical insurance policies. Seniors who enroll in Medicare Advantage plans spend on average about \$100 per month less out of their own pockets for medical care than those with standard medical coverage. Many of these plans have also engaged in an effort to identify beneficiaries who are less likely to receive preventive care, such as regular blood tests, and have found that African Americans with diabetes need help with accessing these services more regularly.

Your Administration has also worked to increase health insurance coverage for low-income children, including minorities. The number of uninsured children is lower than in any year since 1989, and the percentage of children who have health coverage has never been higher. For instance, the number of children enrolled in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) has increased about 33% since 2001. Your FY 2006 budget requested \$1 billion for a nationwide "Cover the Kids" outreach effort to continue enrolling low-income children in SCHIP.

HIV/AIDS. In your State of the Union address, you stated your strong support for the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act this year, with a focus on citizens with the highest rate of new infections, African American men and women. Of the 571,000 people served yearly by the Ryan White CARE Act, over half are people of color.

Justice. You were the first President to call for an end to racial profiling in Federal law enforcement, and your Administration has implemented specific guidelines prohibiting the practice in Federal law enforcement. In your State of the Union address, you 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 defendants have competent attorneys.

COPY FROM ORM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SIGNING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION TO COMMEMORATE THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Tuesday, July 26, 2005
9:50 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Oval Office
Karl Rove / Claude A. Allen

I. PURPOSE

To sign the Presidential Proclamation commemorating the 15th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

II. BACKGROUND

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990. The ADA established a legal framework for removing barriers faced by the Nation's disabled citizens.

On February 1, 2001, you announced the New Freedom Initiative, a comprehensive program to promote the full participation of people with disabilities in all areas of society by increasing access to assistive and universally designed technologies, expanding educational and employment opportunities, and promoting increased access into daily community life.

Note: Your father is scheduled to deliver remarks Monday night at the National Council on Disability's ADA anniversary event at the Kennedy Center.

III. PARTICIPANTS

President George H.W. Bush

Berthy De La Rosa-Aponte, Chair, Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel, and daughter Lucy (age 23)

Mike Deland, President, CEO, and Board Chairman, National Organization on Disability

Lex Frieden, Chair, National Council on Disability

Jan Tuck, Chair, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Access Board

Madeleine Will, Chair, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities

White House Staff Required to Attend

Claude A. Allen, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

Working Contacts

Susan Buckland, Associate Director, Domestic Policy Council

Steve Lineberry, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Public Liaison

IV. PRESS PLAN

Photo Release

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Note: There will be a pre-brief led by Claude Allen.

- Guests arrive in the Oval Office.
- You sign the proclamation and take a photo.
- Guests depart.

VI. REMARKS

Talking Points Provided by the Domestic Policy Council

VII. ATTACHMENT

Background on Signing Participants

BACKGROUND ON SIGNING PARTICIPANTS

Berthy De La Rosa-Aponte, Chair, Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel (Cooper City, Florida)

Berthy De La Rosa-Aponte has been a disability advocate for over 20 years. She serves as principal investigator at the Florida Family Support Project, where she conducts statewide community-based training for people with developmental disabilities. Berthy has three grown children: Milton, Diana, and Lucy. Lucy is severely disabled and was Berthy's inspiration for becoming involved in disability issues.

Lucy Aponte, Daughter of Berthy De La Rosa-Aponte (Cooper City, Florida)

Lucy Aponte (age 23) is developmentally disabled, autistic, and has cerebral palsy. She received a special high school diploma from Cooper City High School in June 2004 and hopes to own her own business one day. With assistive technology, Lucy creates art that is transferred to various mediums, such as greeting cards and decorative plates. Lucy cannot speak and uses a wheelchair.

Mike Deland, President, Former Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality, under President George H.W. Bush (Washington, D.C.)

After serving as CEQ director in your father's administration, Mike Deland joined the National Organization on Disability (NOD) as Board Chairman in 1995 and was named as President and CEO in April 2005. Mike uses a wheelchair.

Lex Frieden, Chair, National Council on Disability (Houston, Texas)

Lex Frieden is Senior Vice President at The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR). He is also director of TIRR's Independent Living Research Utilization Program and professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Baylor College of Medicine. Lex uses a wheelchair.

Jan Tuck, Chair, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Access Board (Marina del Rey, California)

Jan Tuck is manager of the accessibility compliance program for Princess Cruises, which has a network of operations extending to six continents and nearly 260 ports around the world. She has worked with the company for 25 years. Jan uses a wheelchair.

Madeleine Will, Chair, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (Chevy Chase, Maryland)

Madeleine Will has been active in disability policy for three decades. She has held positions in both the public and private sectors focusing on the development of early-intervention services, transition from school to employment, school inclusion programs, and employment programs for people with disabilities. Madeleine has three grown children. Her son, Jon (age 33), has Down Syndrome.

**COPY
FROM ORM**

7/26/05

**TALKING POINTS FOR SIGNING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION TO
COMMEMORATE THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

- I am honored and proud to have my father join me here in the Oval Office. Fifteen years ago today, out on the South Lawn, he signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act. He said this law would knock down a wall that for too many generations had separated Americans with disabilities from the freedom they could glimpse, but not grasp. He was right. Because of this good law, millions of Americans with disabilities now compete for jobs once denied to them ... enter buildings once closed to them ... and travel on buses and trains once unequipped for them. Fifteen years after the ADA, we are a better country for it.
- By striving to ensure that no American is denied access to employment, education, cultural activities, or community life because of a disability, we strengthen our Nation.
- Building on the accomplishments of the last fifteen years and recognizing that there is still work to be done, I announced my New Freedom Initiative (NFI) on February 1, 2001. NFI is a comprehensive strategy to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to participate fully in community life. Today, Americans with disabilities have increased access to technology; increased educational opportunities; better opportunities for integration into the workforce; and increased opportunities to all aspects of community life.
- Through these and other efforts, we will continue to build on the progress of the ADA, and, by doing so, hold fast to our Nation's faith in the promise and potential of every person.

###

COPY
FROM ORM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
August 1, 2005

→ Report's
Executive Summary
is at tab

8/2/05

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CLAUDE A. ALLEN

FROM: SUSAN BUCKLAND

RE: *Transforming Mental Health Care in America* Report

During our pre-brief for the 15th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), you requested a copy of the *Transforming Mental Health Care in America The Federal Action Agenda: First Steps* report. Enclosed is a copy of the report, released July 25, 2005.

Summary:

In February 2001, you launched the New Freedom Initiative designed to promote full access to community life for people with disabilities. Your New Freedom Initiative called for better coordination of Federal resources to address mental health issues. Currently, numerous Federal agencies oversee mental health programs, policies, funding, laws, and programs.

In April 2002, you issued Executive Order 13263 establishing the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. The Commission met for one year to study research literature and to review current programs. The Commission framed its work around the five principles set forth in your Executive Order 13262. These principles seek to maximize each individual's potential; promote collaborative community level models of care; focus on policies that maximize the utility of existing resources by increasing cost effectiveness and reducing unnecessary and burdensome regulatory barriers; use research findings effectively; and follow the principles of federalism and ensure that recommendations promote innovation, flexibility, and accountability at all levels of government, respecting the constitutional role of the States and Indian tribes.

This *Transforming Mental Health Care in America The Federal Mental Health Action Agenda: First Steps* report is a collaborative product of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agencies, Department of Education, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Social Security Administration.

###

40th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965
A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

August 5, 2005

In America, we believe in the freedom of every individual. This freedom includes the ability to participate in one of the most cherished rights and fundamental responsibilities of citizenship: the right to vote. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 helped ensure that all citizens would have the opportunity to vote, regardless of race. As President Lyndon Johnson said when he signed the Act, "Millions of Americans are denied the right to vote because of their color. This law will ensure them the right to vote. The wrong is one which no American, in his heart, can justify. The right is one which no American, true to our principles, can deny." As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of this historic act, we reaffirm this bedrock commitment to equality and justice for all.

America's history is a story of people working for freedom, justice, and equality. We have made great progress toward achieving these ideals. In the middle of the 20th century, the conscience of America was awakened by the struggles and the courage of those who overcame racial slurs, fire hoses, and burning crosses. Brave men and women held sit-ins at lunch counters, rode buses on Freedom Rides, and marched in our Nation's Capital and throughout our country to demand the full promise of the Declaration of Independence. The work of these courageous Americans led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and we remember their heroism on this anniversary.

America is a stronger and better Nation because of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As President Johnson said upon signing the Act, it is "a triumph for freedom as huge as any victory that has ever been won on any battlefield." The Act was a great step forward in the history of our Nation, and it remains essential as we continue our progress toward a society in which every person of every background can realize the American Dream.

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 August 6, 2005, as a day of celebration in honor of the 40th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of August, 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

###

Proclamation by the President: Death of Rosa Parks

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

October 30, 2005

As a mark of respect for the memory of Rosa Parks, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, that on the day of her interment, 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 on such day. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same period 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 thirtieth day of October, 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

#

President Signs H.R. 2967, H.R. 3765, S. 37 and S. 1285

On Friday, November 11, 2005, the President signed into law:

H.R. 2967, which designates the Federal building located at 333 Mt. Elliott Street in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Rosa Parks Federal Building."

H.R. 3765, which extends through March 31, 2006, the Army's authority to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal entities to expedite the processing of permits.

S. 37, which extends for two years the U.S. Postal Service's authority to issue special postage stamps to help provide funding for breast cancer research.

S. 1285, which designates the Federal building located at 333 Mt. Elliott Street in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Rosa Parks Federal Building," and the annex, located on the 200 block of 3rd Street Northwest in the District of Columbia, to the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building and United States Courthouse located at Constitution Avenue Northwest in the District of Columbia as the "William B. Bryant Annex."

###

President Signs H.R. 4145 to Place Statue of Rosa Parks in U.S. Capitol

Room 350

Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building

December 1, 2005

THE PRESIDENT: Welcome. Please be seated. Thank you all for being here. Laura and I thank you for joining us on this special day.

Fifty years ago an African American woman named Rosa Parks helped set in motion a national movement for equality and freedom when she refused a bus driver's order to give her seat to a white man. The bill I'm about to sign calls for a statue of Rosa Parks to be placed in the Capitol's National Statuary Hall. (Applause.)

By placing her statue in the heart of the nation's Capitol, we commemorate her work for a more perfect union, and we commit ourselves to continue to struggle for justice for every American.

I'm honored the Secretary of State has joined us, as well as Secretary Alphonso Jackson. I want to thank the bill sponsors, Jesse Jackson, Jr. -- I see you brought some of your family with you. (Laughter.) Senator John Kerry, Senator Thad Cochran; Senator Dick Lugar joining us, as well.

I'm proud that Bruce Gordon is here. He's the President and CEO of the NAACP. Thanks for joining us, Bruce. I want to thank all the civil rights leaders who've joined us, as well. I particularly want to say thanks to Elaine Steele, Representative of the Rosa Parks Institute.

MS. STEELE: Right here.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Welcome. (Applause.) We've got a seat for you.

It's great to see Dr. Dorothy Height, as well. Welcome, Dr. Height. (Applause.) I want to thank all of Rosa Parks' family who have joined us as well; you're kind to come.

Rosa Parks was a daughter of the South who worked as a seamstress at a department store in a Montgomery, Alabama. On December 1, 1955, she boarded a city bus. Under local and state law, African Americans had to give up their seats if any white people were standing. But after a lifetime of discrimination and a hard day's work, Rosa refused. As she would later say, "I wasn't tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day ... No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

By refusing to give in, Rosa Parks showed that one candle can light the darkness. Like so many institutionalized evils, segregation ultimately depended on public accommodation. Like so many institutionalized evils, once the ugliness of these laws was held up to the light, they could not stand. Like so many institutionalized evils, these laws proved no match for the power of an awakened conscience -- and as a result, the cruelty and humiliation of the Jim Crow laws are now a thing of the past.

By refusing to give in, Rosa Parks helped inspire a nationwide effort for equal justice under the law. When she refused to yield her seat, Mrs. Parks was arrested, convicted of violating the segregation laws, and fined \$10, plus \$4 dollars in court fees. Her arrest sparked a boycott of the Montgomery bus lines by its black passengers, and the formation of a local association of African-Americans led by a young preacher named Martin Luther King, Junior. The boycott ended more than a year later, after the Supreme Court struck down segregation on buses. What had begun as a simple act of civil disobedience ended up galvanizing the modern movement for civil rights.

By refusing to give in, Rosa Parks called America back to its founding promise of equality and justice for everyone. When the police officer boarded the bus and told the seamstress that he had to arrest her, he explained that the law was the law. Rosa and the black ministers who defended her invoked the Constitution and pointed to a higher law. Our Declaration of Independence makes clear that the human right to dignity and equality is not a grant of government -- it is a gift from the Author of Life. (Applause.) And by holding our nation true to the words of its founding document, Rosa Parks helped her fellow African-Americans claim their God-given freedoms and made America a better place.

Eventually the civil rights movement would succeed in persuading Congress to pass more sweeping legislation that dealt with voting rights and discrimination in public places, and school segregation -- and the United States Congress should renew the Voting Rights Act of 1965. (Applause.)

Dr. King liked to say that our Civil Rights Act was written in the streets by the citizens who marched for justice and equality. And on this day we remember the great inspiration this movement drew from the quiet courage shown by an Alabama woman riding home on a Cleveland Avenue bus.

It is fitting that this American hero will now be honored with a monument inside the most visible symbol of American democracy. We hope that generations of Americans will remember what this brave woman did, and be inspired to add their own contributions to the unfolding story of American freedom for all.

And now it's my honor to sign the bill that will make Rosa Parks the first African American woman to be honored with a statue in our nation's Capitol. (Applause.)

(The bill was signed.) (Applause.)

###

President Honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at "Let Freedom Ring" Celebration

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Washington, D.C.

January 16, 2006

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, all. Thanks for the kind introduction. Thanks for the invitation to be here. It's an honor to join you on this national holiday celebrating one of America's most important lives: Martin Luther King, Jr. (Applause.)

Every year on this day we reflect on the great movement for civil rights that transformed our country. We remember leaders like Rosa Parks, who today is being honored with the John Thompson, Jr. Legacy of a Dream Award. And we recommit ourselves to working for the dream that Martin Luther King gave his life for: an America where the dignity of every person is respected; where people are judged not by the color of their skin -- by the content of their character; and where the hope of a better tomorrow is in every neighborhood in this country.

I'm sorry Laura is not with me. She's leading a delegation to Liberia for the swearing-in of President Johnson Sirleaf --(applause) -- who, by the way, is the first elected woman President on the continent of Africa. (Applause.)

I want to thank Dr. DeGioia and the good folks at Georgetown University. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here. By the way, Condoleezza Rice is not here, because she's with Laura. (Laughter.) I want to thank Majority Leader Bill Frist and his wife, Karyn; other members of Congress who are here. I appreciate Bruce Gordon, the president of the NAACP, for his strong leadership. (Applause.)

It is such an honor always to be in the presence of Dorothy Height. (Applause.) And I want to thank Tiffany Thompson for being here to represent her good dad -- wonder where your brother was? (Laughter.) DeGioia hired him and he's working. (Laughter.) Thank you all for being here.

When our founders declared America's independence, they invoked the self-evident truth that all men are created equal. Our Constitution was written to put the principles of a free and equal society into practice. It is a living document. It required amendment to make sure that promise was fulfilled, amendments like the abolishment of slavery, the guarantee of equal protection, and the right to vote for all Americans. Dr. King called these documents America's great "charters of freedom," and he continued to trust in their power even when the practice of America did not live up to their promise.

As children of the South, Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks both came to the civil rights movement with long personal experience of the evils of discrimination and segregation. Dr. King called the daily humiliations endured by black Americans, "the jangling discords of our nation." And Rosa Parks famously experienced it when that bus driver had her arrested for refusing his order to give up her seat to a white man.

But Mrs. Parks and Dr. King shared a deep belief in a hopeful future. They strongly believed that segregation could not stand once it was held up to the light in all its ugliness. And because of their spirit and their work, the cruelty and humiliation of Jim Crow is a thing of the past.

As well, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mrs. Parks' faith in the future reflected their faith in a higher being. Martin Luther King and Mrs. Parks both believed that the answer to hate and discrimination was love. Dr. King once wrote, "It is quite easy for me to think of a God of love, mainly because I grew up in a family where love was central and where lovely relationships were ever-present." Mrs. Parks was a devout member all her life of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and a woman who saw the face of God in every human being. These two leaders knew that freedom was not a grant of government, but a gift from the Author of all Life.

So when they made their appeal to equal rights, they aimed straight for America's soul, and they roused a dozing conscience of a complacent nation. By calling us to be true to our founding promise of equality, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mrs. Parks helped African Americans gain their God-given rights.

As leaders, Martin Luther King and Mrs. Parks believed their calling was to be involved, to be active, to work for change. Long before Mrs. Parks refused to move from her bus seat, she'd been active in community efforts to advance opportunities for African Americans and to register them to vote.

At the dawn of this new century, America can be proud of the progress we have made toward equality, but we all must recognize we have more to do. (Applause.) The reason to honor Martin Luther King is to remember his strength of character and his leadership, but also to remember the remaining work. The reason to honor Mrs. Parks is not only to pay homage to her strength of character, but to remember the ideal of active citizenship. Active citizens in the 1960s struggled hard to convince Congress to pass civil rights legislation that ensured the rights of all, including the right to vote. And Congress must renew the Voting Rights Act of 1965. (Applause.)

Martin Luther King did not live to celebrate his 40th birthday. Yet in the short time he walked upon this earth, he preached that all the powers of evil are ultimately no match for one individual armed with eternal truths. And one evening, on a bus ride home from work, a tired but brave woman named Rosa Parks proved that Dr. King was right.

And so today we honor Dr. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks. We ask for God's blessings on their legacy, and we ask for God's blessings on our great nation.

Thank you. (Applause.)

#

President and Mrs. Bush Saddened by Death of Coretta Scott King

January 31, 2006

Laura and I are deeply saddened by the death of Coretta Scott King. Mrs. King was a remarkable and courageous woman, and a great civil rights leader. She carried on the legacy of her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., including through her extraordinary work at the King Center. Mrs. King's lasting contributions to freedom and equality have made America a better and more compassionate nation. Laura and I were fortunate to have known Mrs. King, and we will always treasure the time we spent with her. We send our condolences and prayers to the entire King family.

#

President Honors Coretta Scott King at Homegoing Celebration

New Birth Missionary Church
Atlanta, Georgia

February 7, 2006

THE PRESIDENT: To the King Family, distinguished guests and fellow citizens. We gather in God's house, in God's presence, to honor God's servant, Coretta Scott King. Her journey was long, and only briefly with a hand to hold. But now she leans on everlasting arms. I've come today to offer the sympathy of our entire nation at the passing of a woman who worked to make our nation whole.

Americans knew her husband only as a young man. We knew Mrs. King in all the seasons of her life -- and there was grace and beauty in every season. As a great movement of history took shape, her dignity was a daily rebuke to the pettiness and cruelty of segregation. When she wore a veil at 40 years old, her dignity revealed the deepest trust in God and His purposes. In decades of prominence, her dignity drew others to the unfinished work of justice. In all her years, Coretta Scott King showed that a person of conviction and strength could also be a beautiful soul. This kind and gentle woman became one of the most admired Americans of our time. She is rightly mourned, and she is deeply missed.

Some here today knew her as a girl, and saw something very special long before a young preacher proposed. She once said, "Before I was a King, I was a Scott." And the Scotts were strong, and righteous, and brave in the face of wrong. Coretta eventually took on the duties of a pastor's wife, and a calling that reached far beyond the doors of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

In that calling, Dr. King's family was subjected to vicious words, threatening calls in the night, and a bombing at their house. Coretta had every right to count the cost, and step back from the struggle. But she decided that her children needed more than a safe home -- they needed an America that upheld their equality, and wrote their rights into law. (Applause.) And because this young mother and father were not intimidated, millions of children they would never meet are now living in a better, more welcoming country. (Applause.)

In the critical hours of the civil rights movement, there were always men and women of conscience at the heart of the drama. They knew that old hatreds ran deep. They knew that nonviolence might be answered with violence. They knew that much established authority was against them. Yet they also knew that sheriffs and mayors and governors were not ultimately in control of events; that a greater authority was interested, and very much in charge. (Applause.)

The God of Moses was not neutral about their captivity. The God of Isaiah and the prophets was still impatient with injustice. And they knew that the Son of God would never leave them or forsake them.

But some had to leave before their time -- and Dr. King left behind a grieving widow and little children. Rarely has so much been asked of a pastor's wife, and rarely has so much been taken away. Years later, Mrs. King recalled, "I would wake up in the morning, have my cry, then go in to them. The children saw me going forward." Martin Luther King, Jr. had preached that unmerited suffering could have redemptive power.

Little did he know that this great truth would be proven in the life of the person he loved the most. Others could cause her sorrow, but no one could make her bitter. By going forward with a strong and forgiving heart, Coretta Scott King not only secured her husband's legacy, she built her own. (Applause.) Having loved a leader, she became a leader. And when she spoke, America listened closely, because her voice carried the wisdom and goodness of a life well lived.

In that life, Coretta Scott King knew danger. She knew injustice. She knew sudden and terrible grief. She also knew that her Redeemer lives. She trusted in the name above every name. And today we trust that our sister Coretta is on the other shore -- at peace, at rest, at home. (Applause.) May God bless you, and may God bless our country. (Applause.)

###



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

July 13, 2006
(House)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 9 - Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act

Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006

(Rep. Sensenbrenner (R) Wisconsin and 152 cosponsors)

The Administration is strongly committed to renewing the Voting Rights Act, and therefore supports House passage of H.R. 9. The Voting Rights Act is one of the most significant pieces of civil rights legislation in the Nation's history, and the President has directed the full power and resources of the Justice Department to protect each citizen's right to vote and to preserve the integrity of the Nation's voting process. The Administration is pleased the House is taking action to renew this important legislation. The Administration supports the legislative intent of H.R. 9 to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's 2003 decision in *Georgia v. Ashcroft* and its 2000 decision in *Reno v. Bossier Parish School Board*.

* * * * *

**COPY
FROM ORM**

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 17, 2006

Revised

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

7/18/06

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: KARL ZINSMEISTER

RE: The Administration's Civil Rights Record

Purpose

To discuss the central elements of the Administration's record on civil rights in anticipation of your possible speech to the NAACP this Thursday, July 20.

Discussion

Summary of Key Facts

- In June 2006, the unemployment rate for African Americans was 9%, below the average levels of the 1980s and 1990s.
- In 2003, for the first time ever, over half of minority families owned their own homes.
- The Administration requested nearly \$300 million for historically black colleges in the 2007 budget, a record level of funding.
- The Administration has committed a record \$15 billion over 5 years to fighting HIV/AIDS.

1. Administration Accomplishments

- **Unemployment.** The current unemployment rate for African Americans of 9.0% is down from 10.8% in 2003.
- **Appointments.** You have compiled the most diverse Cabinet in U.S. history, including four African Americans, three Hispanics, and two Asian Americans. Before you took office, no minority had been Attorney General or Secretary of State.
- **Voting Rights.** You have firmly supported renewal of the Voting Rights Act. The House passed Voting Rights Act reauthorization last Wednesday, July 12, and the Senate is expected to take up the bill soon.
- **Welfare Reform.** Since the 1996 reform, 57% of the caseload has moved off welfare and into work. There are now fewer families on welfare than at any time since 1969. The

number of children in poverty is lower by 1.4 million compared to 1996. The African American caseload has declined nearly 40% since enactment of the 1996 reform. According to the latest data, 38% of families receiving TANF are African-American.

- Promoting Healthy Marriages and Responsible Fatherhood. Nearly 70% of all births to African-American mothers are out of wedlock, and these children are five times more likely to grow up in poverty than children raised in two-parent households. In February 2006, you signed a measure to provide \$150 million in grants from HHS to develop innovative approaches to promoting healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood. The FY 2007 budget requests a total of \$250 million for these activities.
- Education. Due in significant part to the No Child Left Behind Act, the achievement gap between African-American students and their peers has narrowed. The 2005 National Assessment of Educational Progress shows that while reading scores for white students rose 5 points, the scores for African-American students rose even faster—14 points. The reading score achievement gap has decreased from 35 points in 1999 to 26 points in 2004. Average math scores for African-American students at ages 9 and 13 were higher than in any previous assessment year. In addition, No Child Left Behind provides increased options for children who are trapped in low-performing schools to obtain tutoring or to transfer to other public schools in their district.
- School Choice. The Administration enacted the first Federally funded school choice program in the District of Columbia. Over 1,708 low-income students in the District have been able to attend the private school of their choice during the 2005-2006 school year. Once it is fully implemented, nearly 2,000 students will receive scholarships under this program. America's Opportunity Scholarships for Kids, proposed in the 2007 budget and introduced this week in Congress, would provide competitive grants to states, school districts, and non-profit organizations to provide scholarships to low-income children in persistently under-performing schools to attend the private school of their choice or to receive intensive, sustained tutoring.
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). To ensure that more students have access to a college or university education, you committed during the 2000 campaign to increase funding for HBCUs by 30%. The Administration requested nearly \$300 million for HBCUs in the 2007 budget, a record level of funding and up nearly 30% during this Administration.
- Faith-Based and Community Initiative. In many low-income urban neighborhoods, the main providers of private social services are African-American churches. The 2002 "Equal Treatment" Executive Order seeks to level the regulatory playing field for faith-based and community organizations, including African-American religious charities, that are competing for Federal grants. The Compassion Capital Fund established at HHS by this Administration ensures that grant funds are available for African-American religious charities. Administration initiatives on prisoner re-entry, drug treatment, mentoring for children of prisoners, and gang prevention have also addressed issues of critical importance to African Americans.

- **HIV/AIDS**. In the State of the Union address, you stated your strong support for reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, with a focus on citizens with the highest rate of new infections, African-American men and women. Of the 571,000 people served yearly by the Ryan White CARE Act, over half are people of color. The Administration has also committed \$15 billion over 5 years to support treatment, prevention, and care for HIV/AIDS overseas, particularly in 15 affected countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.
- **Africa**. The Administration has adopted an aggressive policy to address the problems of Africa, including working with the key anchor states in each sub-region, supporting sub-regional organizations, engaging the African Union, combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic, advancing political and economic freedom, promoting peace and regional stability, and launching the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA). Congress appropriated \$1 billion for the MCA for FY 2004 and \$1.5 billion for FY 2005. You requested \$3 billion for FY 2006 and have pledged to increase annual funding for the MCA to \$5 billion in the future.
- **Health Care**. The Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) granted access to drug coverage to an estimated 700,000 African-American Medicare beneficiaries starting in January 2006. The poorest beneficiaries will pay no premium, no deductibles, and only nominal cost-sharing for drugs. The Administration has increased health-insurance coverage of low-income children, including minorities. The number of uninsured children is lower than in any year since 1989, and the percentage of children who have health coverage has never been higher.
- **Gulf Coast Recovery**. You and the Congress have provided more than \$100 billion to support recovery and rebuilding in the Gulf region. These funds have been used to provide temporary housing support to more than 700,000 families, continued education of children displaced by the storms, health services, low-interest loans, debris removal and more.
- **Justice**. You called for an end to racial profiling in Federal law enforcement, and the Administration has implemented specific guidelines prohibiting the practice in Federal law enforcement. In the 2005 State of the Union address, you called for full funding for the use of DNA evidence to solve crimes and prevent wrongful convictions. The Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice is actively pursuing cold cases involving civil rights crimes, most notably the Emmett Till case involving the 1955 murder of an African American teenager in Mississippi.
- **Business Ownership**. You cut taxes on small businesses, and last year increased Small Business Administration loans to African-American businesses by more than 41%. The Administration is working to give minority-owned businesses better access to Federal contracts and has provided \$12 billion in New Market tax credits to boost investment and community development in low-income areas. In 2004, you announced

an historic initiative to expand minority businesses, especially among African Americans, through the Urban Entrepreneur Partnership.

- Honoring African American Icons. You proclaimed a national day of mourning for the death of Rosa Parks and signed legislation to place a statue of Rosa Parks in the U.S. Capitol. You also proclaimed a day of mourning upon the death of Coretta Scott King and attended her funeral in Atlanta.

2. Potential Challenging Questions

- K-12 Racial Preference Cases. The Supreme Court will review two cases this fall that pose the question of whether race should play a role in assigning students to competitive spots in elementary and secondary schools. The decision whether to file an amicus brief will be made soon by the Solicitor General.
- Hurricane Katrina. Some argue that implementation of the Administration's minority contracting and minority job training and education programs has been inadequate. The Administration created the Hurricane Contracting Information Center to coordinate procurement opportunities and largely to help minority firms. SBA and Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency have assisted hundreds of minority firms, and the Gulf Coast Urban Entrepreneur Partnership is expanding the capacity of African American businesses to compete for both government and private sector contracts.
- Poverty Rate. While the national poverty rate has increased, from 11.3% in 2000 to 12.7% in 2004 (most recent data), it is still lower than in all but one year in the 1980s and 1990s and remains far below its most recent peak of 15.1% in 1993.

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.¹ 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%).

¹ 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 communities² 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).

² 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 Pleased with Senate Passage of Voting Rights Act

July 20, 2006

Last week, the House of Representatives passed legislation to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act. This morning, in celebration of the heroism of the Civil Rights Movement, I spoke to members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at their 97th annual convention here in Washington, D.C. At the NAACP convention, I said that I looked forward to the Senate promptly passing the House bill without amendment. Today, the Senate acted and voted to reauthorize this historic legislation.

The Voting Rights Act is one of the most important pieces of legislation in our Nation's history. It has been vital to guaranteeing the right to vote for generations of Americans and has helped millions of our citizens enjoy the full promise of freedom.

I will be pleased to sign the Voting Rights Act into law, and I will continue to work with Congress to ensure that our country lives up to our guiding principle that all men and women are created equal.

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President Bush Addresses NAACP Annual Convention

Washington Convention Center
Washington, D.C.

July 20, 2006

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much. (Applause.) Thank you very much. Bruce, thanks for your introduction. Bruce is a polite guy -- I thought what he was going to say, it's about time you showed up. (Laughter and applause.) And I'm glad I did. (Applause.) See, I see this as a moment of opportunity. I have come to celebrate the heroism of the civil rights movement, and the accomplishments of the NAACP. (Applause.)

I want to talk about ways to build what the NAACP has always sought -- a nation united, committed to destroying discrimination and extending to every American the full blessings -- the full blessings -- of liberty and opportunity. (Applause.) It's important to me. It's important to our nation. I come from a family committed to civil rights. My faith tells me that we're all children of God, equally loved, equally cherished, equally entitled to the rights He grants us all.

For nearly 200 years, our nation failed the test of extending the blessings of liberty to African Americans. (Applause.) Slavery was legal for nearly a hundred years, and discrimination legal in many places for nearly a hundred years more. Taken together, the record placed a stain on America's founding, a stain that we have not yet wiped clean. (Applause.)

When people talk about America's founders they mention the likes of Washington and Jefferson and Franklin and Adams. Too often they ignore another group of founders -- men and women and children who did not come to America of their free will, but in chains. (Applause.) These founders literally helped build our country. They chopped the wood, they built the homes, they tilled the fields, and they reaped the harvest. They raised children of others, even though their own children had been ripped away and sold to strangers. (Applause.) These founders were denied the most basic birthright, and that's freedom.

Yet, through captivity and oppression, they kept the faith. They carved a great nation out of the wilderness, and later, their descendants led a people out of the wilderness of bigotry. Nearly 200 years into our history as a nation, America experienced a second founding: the Civil Rights movement. Some of those leaders are here. (Applause.) These second founders, led by the likes of Thurgood Marshall and Martin Luther King, Jr. believed in the constitutional guarantees of liberty and equality. They trusted fellow Americans to join them in doing the right thing. They were leaders. They toppled Jim Crow through simple deeds: boarding a bus, walking along the road, showing up peacefully at courthouses or joining in prayer and song. Despite the sheriff's dogs, and the jailer's scorn, and the hangman's noose, and the assassin's bullets, they prevailed. (Applause.)

I don't know if you remember, three weeks ago, I went to Memphis, Tennessee. (Applause and laughter.) A lot of people focused on the fact that my friend, the Prime Minister of Japan, was an Elvis fan, because we went to Graceland. But we also went to another stop, a stop Reverend Jesse Jackson knows all too well, a painful moment in his life and in the life of our nation, reflected in the Lorraine Motel.

The Prime Minister and I went there, which is now the National Civil Rights Museum. By the way, if you haven't been there, you ought to go. (Applause.) Among the people greeting me there was Dr. Benjamin Hooks. (Applause.) It's good to see you again, sir. He led me out onto the balcony of Room 306. I remember Dr. Hooks pointed to the window that was still half-cracked. You know what I'm talking about, Jesse. It's not very far away. It was a powerful reminder of the hardships this nation has been through, the struggle for decency.

I was honored that Dr. Hooks took time to visit with me. He talked about the hardships of the movement. With the gentle wisdom that comes from experience, he made it clear we must work as one. And that's why I've come today. (Applause.) We want a united America that is one nation under God -- (applause) -- where every man and child and woman is valued and treated with dignity. We want a hopeful America where the prosperity and opportunities of our great land reach into every block of every neighborhood. We want an America that is constantly renewing itself, where citizens rise above political differences to heal old wounds, to build the bonds of brotherhood and to move us ever closer to the founding promise of liberty and justice for all.

Nearly a hundred years after the NAACP's birth, America remains an unfolding story of freedom. And all of us have an obligation to play our part. (Applause.)

I want to thank your chairman, Julian Bond, for his introduction. And thanks for greeting me today, Mr. Chairman. (Applause.) I asked him for a few pointers on how to give a speech. (Laughter.) It doesn't look like they're taking. (Laughter.)

I want to thank Roslyn Brock, the Vice Chairman of the board, as well. (Applause.) I thank all the board members, all the participants, all the members of the United States Congress for joining us today, as well. (Applause.)

I congratulate Bruce Gordon on his strong leadership. (Applause.) I've gotten to know him. See, shortly after he was elected, he came by the Oval Office. He doesn't mince words. (Laughter.) It's clear what's on his mind. He's also a results-oriented person. I'm pleased -- I'm pleased to say that I have -- I'm an admirer of Bruce Gordon, and we've got a good working relationship. (Applause.) I don't know if that helps you or hurts you. (Laughter.) But it's the truth. I admire the man.

We've had frank discussions, starting with Katrina. We talked about the challenges facing the African American community after that storm. We talked about the response of the federal government. And most importantly, we talked about the way forward. We talked about what we can do working together -- (applause) -- to move forward. As a result of that first meeting, we found areas where we share common purpose, and we have resolved to work together in practical ways. I don't expect Bruce to become a Republican -- (laughter) -- and neither do you. (Laughter.) But I do want to work with him, and that's what I'm here to talk to you about. (Applause.)

So we've been working together in helping the citizens along the Gulf Coast recover from one of the worst natural disasters in our nation's history. You know, when we met, I told Bruce that I would work with the Congress to make sure we dedicated enough money to help the folks. He kind of looked at me like, sure, he's heard these political promises before. It's not the first time that he had heard somebody say, well, we'll work together to see if we can't get enough money, and I suspect he might have thought, well, he's just trying to get me out of the Oval Office. (Laughter.)

But I meant what I said, and I want to thank the United States Congress for joining with the administration. We committed over \$110 billion to help the people in the Gulf Coast. (Applause.) That's money to go to build new homes, good schools. Bruce and I talked a lot about how do we make sure the contracting that goes on down there in the Gulf Coast goes to minority-owned businesses. (Applause.)

The road to recovery is long and difficult, but we will continue to work together to implement the strategy that Bruce and I worked on along with people -- other people like Donna Brazile and other leaders. We've got a plan, and we've got a commitment. And the commitment is not only to work together, but it's a commitment to the people of the Gulf Coast of the United States, to see to it that their lives are better and brighter than before the storm. (Applause.)

We also worked together to ensure that African Americans can take advantage of the new Medicare drug benefit. Look, I understand that we had a political disagreement on the bill. I know that. But I worked with the Congress to make sure that the days of seniors having to choose between food and medicine is over. And that's the case of this new Medicare benefit. (Applause.) The federal government pays over 95 percent of the cost for our nation's poorest seniors to get this new drug benefit.

And I want to thank the NAACP for recognizing that it's important to help our seniors sign up for this benefit. (Applause.) We put politics aside. We said, the day is over of arguing about the bill; let's make sure people receive the benefits of this bill. Bruce Gordon has shown leadership on this important issue, and I want to thank you for that. (Applause.)

We'll work together, and as we do so, you must understand I understand that racism still lingers in America. (Applause.) It's a lot easier to change a law than to change a human heart. And I understand that many African Americans distrust my political party.

AUDIENCE: Yes! (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: I consider it a tragedy that the party of Abraham Lincoln let go of its historic ties with the African American community. For too long my party wrote off the African American vote, and many African Americans wrote off the Republican Party. (Applause.)

That history has prevented us from working together when we agree on great goals. That's not good for our country. That's what I've come to share with you. We've put the interests of the country above political party. I want to change the relationship. (Applause.) The America we seek should be bigger than politics. And today I'm going to talk about some areas where I believe we can work together to reduce the obstacles for opportunity for all our citizens. And that starts, by the way with education. (Applause.)

Surely, we share the same goal: We want an excellent education for every child. Not just some children, but every single child. I can remember being the governor of Texas -- I don't know if there's any Texans here or not. (Applause.) Tell them "hi" at home. (Laughter.)

I remember going to a ninth grade class when I was the governor. It was in a neighborhood that's -- a low-income neighborhood there in Houston. And I asked the ninth grade teacher, I said, how's it going? The man looked me in the eye and said, my students cannot read. That's wrong to hear a ninth grade teacher say, my students cannot read.

I decided to do something about it when I was the governor, and I decided to do something about that when I became the President. See, we must challenge a system that simply shuffles children through grade to grade, without determining whether they can read, write, and add and subtract. It's a system -- see, I like to call it this: We need to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. If you have low expectations, you're going to get lousy results. (Applause.) We must not tolerate a system that gives up on people.

So I came to Washington and I worked with Democrats and Republicans to pass the No Child Left Behind Act. Let me tell you the strategy behind the act. It says that the federal government will spend more money on education in primary and secondary schools -- and we have increased the budgets by 40 percent. It also says, and in return for additional help, you must measure. We didn't say the federal government is going to measure, we said, we want the local -- the states and the local districts to measure.

And so why do you ask that? Why do you say that in return for increased money, you need to measure? And the reason why is because, in order to solve a problem you've got to diagnose the problem. Measuring results can tell us whether or not teaching methodology is sound. Measuring results can enable us to figure out which children are falling behind early.

You know, one of the interesting things about the No Child Left Behind Act, it says that when we find a child falling behind early there will be extra money for tutoring, extra money for help. The whole purpose is to make sure people are at the starting line. The whole purpose is to make sure that the teacher that told me that, my children can't read, no longer happens in the 9th grade. Measuring helps us determine how we're doing.

There's an achievement gap in America that's wrong for America, an achievement gap that says we're not fulfilling the promise. One of the barriers to opportunity, one of the obstacles to success is the fact that too many of our children aren't reading at grade level. And we know that because we measure, and we're doing something about it. Actually, the achievement gap is beginning to close. There's more work to be done. Measuring allows parents to see how the school that their child is going to is doing. It lets the parents determine whether or not they should be satisfied with the education their child is getting.

I strongly believe that parental involvement is important for our school systems. (Applause.) And I believe -- and I strongly believe a parent knows what's best for his or her child. That's what I believe. And therefore, when we find schools that are not teaching and will not change, our parents should have a different option. If you want quality education you've got to trust the parents.

You know, an amazing thing about our society today is wealthier white families have got the capacity to defeat mediocrity by moving. That is not the case for lower-income families. And so, therefore, I strongly believe in charter schools, and public school choice. I believe in opportunity scholarships to be able to enable parents to move their child out of a school that's not teaching, for the benefit of the United States of America. (Applause.)

I also understand that we've got to do more for primary -- more than just primary and secondary education. I'm proud to report that working with the United States Congress, the number of low-income Americans receiving Pell grants has increased by about a million Americans since I have become the President. Pell grants are an important part of educational excellence and opportunity.

We're expanding money for our community college system. I met my pledge to increase funding for historically black universities by 30 percent. (Applause.) A decent education is the gateway to a life of opportunity. It is a fundamental civil right. And I look forward to working with the NAACP to enhance educational excellence all across the United States of America. (Applause.)

Second, I hope we can work together in an America where more people become owners, own something, something that they can call their own. From our nation's earlier days, ownership has been at the heart of our country. Unfortunately, for most of our history, African Americans were excluded from the dream. That's the reality of our past. Most of your forefathers didn't come to this land seeking a better life; most came in chains as the property of other people. Today, their children and grandchildren now have an opportunity to own their own property, and good policies will encourage that. And that's what we ought to work together on.

For most Americans, ownership begins with owning your own home. Owning a home is a way to build wealth. Owning a home is to give something they can leave behind to their children. See, one of the concerns I have is that because of the past, there hasn't been enough assets that a family can pass on from one generation to the next. And we've got to address that problem. And a good way to do so is through home ownership. (Applause.) Owning a home gives people a stake in their neighborhood, a stake in the future.

Today, nearly half of African Americans own their own homes, and that's good for America. That's good for our country, but still got to do more. So we -- working to do our part with helping people afford a down payment and closing costs, helping families who are in rental assistance to become home owners, helping people understand the fine print when it comes to mortgage documents.

One of the things I want to work with the NAACP on is to encourage more people to be able to open the front door of the place where they live and say, welcome to my home, welcome to my piece of property. (Applause.)

I also want to work to home ownership in other areas. We want to see more African Americans own their own businesses, and that's why we've increased loans to African American businesses by 40 percent. (Applause.) We're taking steps to make it easier for African American businesses to compete for federal contracts. We're working to expand help to have African American workers own a piece of their own retirement.

You know, one of my friends is Bob Johnson, founder of BET. He's an interesting man. He believes strongly in ownership. He has been a successful owner. He believes strongly, for example, that the death tax will prevent future African American entrepreneurs from being able to pass their assets from one generation to the next. He and I also understand that the investor class shouldn't be just confined to the old definition of the investor class.

You know, an amazing experience, when I went to Canton, Mississippi, I asked the workers there, who were mainly African American workers, I said, how many of you have your own 401(k)? Nearly all the hands went up. That means they own their own assets. It's their money. They manage their own money. It's a system that says, we want you to have assets that you can leave from one generation to the next. Asset accumulation is an important part of removing the barriers for opportunity. I think it's really important, and I want to work with Bruce, if possible. The federal government should encourage ownership in the government pension program, to give people a chance to own an asset, something they can call their own.

Ownership is vital to making sure this country extends its hope to every neighborhood in the United States of America. And I look forward to working with the NAACP to encourage ownership in America. (Applause.)

I want to work with you to make sure America's communities are strong. I've got a friend named Tony Evans. Some of you may know Tony, from Dallas, Texas. He was one time giving a sermon. I heard him speak, and I want to share with you what it was. He said -- he told a story about the man who had a crack on one of the walls in his home. So he got the plasterer to come by, and the guy plastered the wall. And about four days later, the crack reappeared. Got another plasterer in, put the plaster on the wall, and it reappeared again. He's getting frustrated. He finally called

a wise fellow over. The man explained what the problem was with the cracks on the wall. He said, look, in order to solve the cracks on the wall, you have to fix the foundation.

What I want to do is work with the NAACP to help fix the foundations of our society. We want strong families. (Applause.) We want to help people who need help. We want to help the addicted, we want to help the homeless, we want to help those who are trying to reenter society after having been incarcerated. That's what we want to do. We want to help lives be improved. (Applause.) Government can hand out money -- and we do -- but it cannot put hope in a person's heart, or a sense of purpose in a person's life. That's why I strongly support institutions of faith and community service all around our country. I believe in the neighborhood helpers and healers.

And I put this policy in place. We've provided more than \$5 billion to faith-based groups that are running the soup kitchens and sheltering the homeless, and healing the addicted, and helping people reenter our society -- people who are providing compassionate care and love. Organizations of faith exist to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves. And I believe it's important for government to not only welcome, but to encourage faith-based programs to help solve the intractable problems of our society.

And this faith-based initiative is being challenged in the courts. They claim that -- they fight the initiative in the name of civil liberties, yet they do not seem to realize that the organizations they are trying to prevent from accessing federal money are the same ones that helped win the struggle of civil rights. I believe if an organization gets good results, that helps people turn their lives around, it deserves support of government. We should not discriminate based upon religion. We ought to welcome religious institutions into helping solve and save America, one soul and one heart at a time. (Applause.)

Finally, you and I seek America that commits its wealth and expertise to helping those who suffer from terrible disease. We believe that every person in the world bears the image of our Maker, and is an individual of matchless value. And when we see the scourge of HIV/AIDS ravaging communities at home and abroad, we must not avert our eyes.

Today more than a million of our fellow Americans live with HIV, and more than half of all AIDS cases arise in the African American community. This disease is spreading fastest among African American women. And one of the reasons the disease is spreading so quickly is many don't realize they have the virus. And so we're going to lead a nationwide effort -- and I want to work with the NAACP on this effort -- to deliver rapid HIV/AIDS -- HIV tests to millions of our fellow citizens. (Applause.) Congress needs to reform and reauthorize the Ryan White Act, and provide funding to states, so we can end the waiting lists for AIDS medications in this country. (Applause.)

To whom much is given, much is required. This nation is a blessed nation, and when we look at HIV/AIDS on the continent of Africa, we haven't turned away. We believe it's our nation's responsibility to help those who suffer from this pandemic.

We're leading the world when it comes to providing medications and help. Today more than 40 million people around the world are living with HIV/AIDS; 26 million of those live in Sub Sahara Africa, including 2 million children under the age of 15. We're calling people together. We pledged \$15 billion to provide medicine and help. We launched the emergency plan for AIDS relief. Before this AIDS emergency plan was passed, only 50,000 in Sub Sahara Africa were getting medicine. Today, that number has grown to more than 560,000 people, and more are getting help every day. By working together we can turn the tide of this struggle against HIV/AIDS and bring new hope to millions of people.

These goals I've outlined are worthy of our nation. In the century since the NAACP was founded, our nation has grown more prosperous and more powerful. It's also grown more equal and just. Yet this work is not finished. That's what I'm here to say. The history of America is one of constant renewal. And each generation has a responsibility to write a new chapter in the unfinished story of freedom.

That story began with the founding promise of equality and justice and freedom for all men. And that promise has brought hope and inspiration to all peoples across the world. Yet our founding was also imperfect because the human beings that made our founding were imperfect. Many of the same founders who signed their names to a parchment declaring that all men are created equal permitted whole categories of human beings to be excluded from these words. The future of our founding, to live up to its own words, opened a wound that has persisted to today.

In the 19th century the wound resulted in a civil war. In the 20th century, it denied African Americans the vote in many parts of our country. And at the beginnings of the 21st century, the wound is not fully healed and whole communities -- (applause) -- to heal this wound for good, we must continue to work for a new founding that redeems the promise of our declaration and guarantees the birthright of every citizen. (Applause.)

For many African Americans this new found began with the civil rights movement and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. A generation of Americans that has grown up in the last few decades may not appreciate what this act has meant. Condi Rice understands what this act has meant. (Applause.) See, she tells me of her father's long struggle to register to vote, and the pride that came when he finally claimed his full rights as an American citizen to cast his first ballot. She shared that story with me. Yet that right was not fully guaranteed until President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law. President Johnson called the right to vote the lifeblood of our democracy. (Applause.) That was true then, and it remains true today.

I thank the members of the House of Representatives for re-authorizing the Voting Rights Act. Soon the Senate will take up the legislation. I look forward to the Senate passing this bill promptly without amendment -- (applause) -- so I can sign it into law. (Applause.)

There's an old Methodist hymn that speaks of God guiding us with a hand of power and a heart of love. We cannot know God's plans, but we trust in his purposes, because we know that the Creator who wrote the desire for liberty in our hearts also gives us the strength and wisdom to fulfill it. And the God who has brought us thus far on the way will give us the strength to finish the journey.

Thank you for having me. May God bless. (Applause.)

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President Bush Signs Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006

The South Lawn

July 27, 2006

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Good morning. Welcome. Thanks for being here on this special day. Please be seated. America began with a Declaration that all men are created equal. This Declaration marked a tremendous advance in the story of freedom, yet it also contained a contradiction: Some of the same men who signed their names to this self-evident truth owned other men as property. By reauthorizing this act, Congress has reaffirmed its belief that all men are created equal; its belief that the new founding started by the signing of the bill by President Johnson is worthy of our great nation to continue. (Applause.)

I'm proud to be here with our Attorney General and members of my Cabinet, the leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives. I thank the bill sponsors, I thank the members of the Judiciary Committee. I appreciate so very much representatives of the Hamer family who have joined us -- (applause) -- representatives of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute who have joined us -- (applause) -- and members of the King family, in particular Reverend Bernice King and Martin Luther King, thank you all for coming. (Applause.)

I'm honored to be here with civil rights leaders like Dr. Dorothy Height -- (applause) -- Julian Bond, the Chairman of the NAACP -- (applause) -- Bruce Gordon, thank you Bruce -- (applause) -- Reverend Lowery, it's good to see you again, sir -- (applause) -- fortunately I got the mic this time. (Laughter.) I'm proud to be here with Marc Morial. Thanks for coming Marc. (Applause.) Juanita Abernathy is with us today. Jesse Jackson, good to see you, Jesse. (Applause.) Al Sharpton -- (applause) -- Dr. Benjamin Hooks and Frances are with us. (Applause.)

A lot of other folks who care deeply about this issue. We welcome you here. It's good to welcome the mayor. Mr. Mayor, good to see you. Thanks for coming. Tony Williams. (Applause.) Everything is fine in the neighborhood, I appreciate it. (Laughter.) And the Mayor of Selma, Alabama, James Perkins, is with us. Mr. Mayor, proud you're here. (Applause.) Welcome, sir.

The right of ordinary men and women to determine their own political future lies at the heart of the American experiment, and it is a right that has been won by the sacrifice of patriots. The Declaration of Independence was born on the stand for liberty taken at Lexington and Concord. The amendments to our Constitution that outlawed slavery and guaranteed the right to vote came at the price of a terrible civil war.

The Voting Rights Act that broke the segregationist lock on the ballot box rose from the courage shown on a Selma bridge one Sunday afternoon in March of 1965. On that day, African Americans, including a member of the United States Congress, John Lewis -- (applause) -- marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in a protest intended to highlight the unfair practices that kept them off the voter rolls.

The brutal response showed America why a march was necessary. When the marchers reached the far side of the bridge, they were met by state troopers and civilian posse bearing billy clubs and whips -- weapons they did not hesitate to use. The images of policemen using night sticks on peaceful protestors were carried on television screens across the country, and they stung the conscience of a slumbering America.

One week after Selma, President Lyndon Johnson took to the airwaves to announce that he planned to submit legislation that would bring African Americans into the civic life of our nation. Five months after Selma, he signed the Voting Rights Act into law in the Rotunda of our nation's capitol. (Applause.) In a little more than a year after Selma, a newly enfranchised black community used their power at the ballot box to help defeat the sheriff who had sent men with whips and clubs to the Edmund Pettus Bridge on that bloody Sunday.

For some parts of our country, the Voting Rights Act marked the first appearance of African Americans on the voting rolls since Reconstruction. And in the primaries and elections that followed the signing of this act, many African Americans pulled the voting lever for the first time in their lives.

Eighty-one year old Willie Bolden was the grandson of slaves, and in the spring of 1966, he cast his first ballot in Alabama's Democratic primary. He told a reporter, "It felt good to me. It made me think I was sort of somebody." In

the America promised by our founders, every citizen is a somebody, and every generation has a responsibility to add its own chapter to the unfolding story of freedom. (Applause.)

In four decades since the Voting Rights Act was first passed, we've made progress toward equality, yet the work for a more perfect union is never ending. We'll continue to build on the legal equality won by the civil rights movement to help ensure that every person enjoys the opportunity that this great land of liberty offers. And that means a decent education and a good school for every child, a chance to own their own home or business, and the hope that comes from knowing that you can rise in our society by hard work and God-given talents. (Applause.)

Today, we renew a bill that helped bring a community on the margins into the life of American democracy. My administration will vigorously enforce the provisions of this law, and we will defend it in court. (Applause.) This legislation is named in honor of three heroes of American history who devoted their lives to the struggle of civil rights: Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King. (Applause.) And in honor of their memory and their contributions to the cause of freedom, I am proud to sign the Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006. (Applause.)

(The act is signed.) (Applause.)

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Fact Sheet: Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006

July 27, 2006

Today, The President Signed Into Law The Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, And Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization And Amendments Act Of 2006. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) was designed to restore the birthright of every American - the right to choose our leaders. It has been vital to guaranteeing the right to vote for generations of Americans and has helped millions of our citizens enjoy the full promise of freedom.

- **In Signing This Bill, President Bush Honored The Memory Of Three Women Who Devoted Their Lives To The Struggle For Civil Rights - Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, And Coretta Scott King.** The Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006 was named in honor of these three American heroes.

The Voting Rights Act Reauthorization And Amendments Act Of 2006 Reaffirms A Commitment To Enforce The Right To Vote For All Americans

The Voting Rights Act Reauthorization And Amendments Act Of 2006 Extends The VRA For 25 Years, Extending:

- The prohibition against the use of tests or devices to deny the right to vote in any Federal, State, or local election; and
- The requirement for certain States and local governments to provide voting materials in multiple languages.

The New Law Also Amends The VRA With Regard To:

- The use of election examiners and observers;
- Voting qualifications or standards intended to diminish, or with the effect of diminishing, the ability of U.S. citizens on account of race or color to elect preferred candidates; and
- Award of attorney fees in enforcement proceedings to include expert fees and other reasonable costs of litigation.

The President Has Committed His Administration To Vigorously Enforce The Provisions Of This Law And To Defend It In Court. The President will also continue to work with Congress to ensure that our country lives up to our guiding principle that all men and women are created equal.

The Administration Will Continue To Build On The Legacy Of The Civil Rights Movement To Help Ensure That Every Child Enjoys The Opportunities America Offers. These opportunities include the right to a decent education in a good school, the chance to own a home or small business, and the hope that comes from knowing you can rise in our society through hard work and using your talents.

History Of The Voting Rights Act Of 1965

- **In March 1965, African Americans Marched Across The Edmund Pettus Bridge In Selma, Alabama, To Protest The Unfair And Racist Practices That Kept Them Off The Voter Rolls.**
- **When The Marchers Reached The Far Side Of The Bridge, They Were Met By State Troopers And A Civilian Posse Bearing Tear Gas, Billy Clubs, And Whips.** This group brutally attacked the peacefully protesting men, women, and children.
- **One Week After The Selma Incident, President Johnson Announced That He Planned To Submit Legislation That Would Bring African Americans Into The Civic Life Of Our Nation.**

- **Five Months After Selma, President Johnson Signed The Voting Rights Act Into Law.** For some parts of our country, the Voting Rights Act marked the first appearance of African Americans on the voting rolls since Reconstruction following the Civil War.

#

Withdrawal Marker

The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Memorandum	Solicitor General Recommendation for the Position of the United States in Supreme Court Affirmative Action Cases - To: POTUS - From: Harriet Miers	3	08/17/2006	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:

Civil Rights 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]
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- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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

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President Bush Attends Ceremonial Groundbreaking of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial

National Mall
Washington, D.C.

November 13, 2006

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much. I'm honored to join you today in today's ceremony. I'm proud to dedicate this piece of our Nation's Capital to the lasting memory of a great man.

We have gathered in tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, to the ideals he held and to the life he lived. Dr. King showed us that a life of conscience and purpose can lift up many souls. And on this ground, a monument will rise that preserves his legacy for the ages. Honoring Dr. King's legacy requires more than building a monument; it required the ongoing commitment of every American. So we will continue to work for the day when the dignity and humanity of every person is respected, and the American promise is denied no one.

This project has been over a decade in the making, and I thank those who have worked to bring about this day. I particularly want to thank my predecessor, the man who signed the legislation to create this memorial, President Bill Clinton. (Applause.) It sounds like to me they haven't forgotten you yet. (Laughter.) He's become, as you know, my fourth brother. (Laughter.)

I want to thank Harry Johnson. I appreciate the members of my Cabinet who are here. I welcome the members of Congress. I thank my Mayor, Tony Williams, who is here. I'm proud to be with the members of the King family. I thank the representatives of the community and civil rights groups who have joined us. I thank the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation board members and executive cabinet. Most of all, thank you all for coming. (Applause.)

Our Declaration of Independence makes it clear that the human right to dignity and equality is not a grant of government. It is the gift from the Author of Life. And Martin Luther King considered the Declaration one of America's great, as he called it, "charters of freedom." He called our founders' words, "a promise that all men -- yes, black men, as well as white men -- would be guaranteed the unalienable right of liberty, life, and the pursuit of happiness."

Throughout Dr. King's life, he continued to trust in the power of those words, even when the practice of America did not live up to their promise. When Martin Luther King came to Washington, D.C. in the summer of 1963, he came to hold this nation to its own standards, and to call its citizens to live up to the principles of our founding. He stood not far from here, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. With thousands gathered around him, Dr. King looked out over the American capital and declared his famous words, "I have a dream."

His dream spread a message of hope that echoed from his hometown of Sweet Auburn, Georgia, to the pulpit of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, to the Edmund Pettus Bridge. An assassin's bullet could not shatter the dream. Dr. King's message of justice and brotherhood took hold in the hearts of men and women across the great land of ours. It continues to inspire millions across the world.

As we break ground, we give Martin Luther King his rightful place among the great Americans honored on our National Mall. The King Memorial will span a piece of ground between the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials. And by its presence in this place it will unite the men who declared the promise of America and defended the promise of America with the man who redeemed the promise of America. (Applause.)

The memorial will reflect the arc of Dr. King's life, his search for justice, and the enduring beauty of his words. The memorial will include a wall where visitors can read passages from Dr. King's sermons and speeches through a stream of water. And on the banks of the Potomac, visitors will walk from the Mountain of Despair to the Stone of Hope, where Dr. King's image is rendered.

Today we see only these open acres, yet we know that when the work is done, the King Memorial will be a fitting tribute, powerful and hopeful and poetic, like the man it honors. As we break ground, we remember the great

obstacles that Dr. King overcame and the courage that transformed American history. The years of Martin Luther King's life were tumultuous, difficult, and an heroic time in the life of our country. Across our nation, African Americans faced daily cruelties and pervasive wrongs. In 1955, a woman, Rosa Parks, challenged these wrongs on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, when she refused a driver's order to give her seat to a white man. Her act of defiance inspired a young Baptist minister and changed our nation forever.

Within days of Rosa Parks' lonely protest, Dr. King helped organize a boycott that captured the attention of our country. When Dr. King's leadership -- with Dr. King's leadership, the boycott forced America to confront the glaring contradiction between the sign on the bus and the words of our Declaration of Independence. And on this date, exactly 50 years ago, the Supreme Court ruled the segregation of public buses unconstitutional. And so today we celebrate the courage that won victories and helped spark one of the greatest movements for equality and freedom in American history.

Eventually, the civil rights movement would succeed in persuading Congress to pass sweeping legislation that represented a new founding for our nation. On July 2, 1964, President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act at the White House. As of that date, no longer could weary travelers be denied a room in a hotel, or a table at a restaurant on account of their race. And no longer could any American be forced to drink from a separate water fountain, or sit at the back of the bus just because of their race.

Dr. King liked to say that our Civil Rights Act was written in the streets by citizens who marched for the idea that all men are created equal. He was right; yet there is no doubt that the law came as it did when it did because of the courage and leadership of Martin Luther King.

As we break ground, we recognize our duty to continue the unfinished work of American freedom. America has come a long way since Dr. King's day; yet our journey to justice is not complete. There are still people in our society who hurt, neighborhoods are too poor. There are still children who do not get the education they need to fulfill their God-given potential. There's still prejudice that holds citizens back. And there's still a need for all Americans to hear the words of Dr. King so we can hasten the day when his message of hope takes hold in every community across our country.

We go forward with the knowledge that the Creator who wrote the desire for liberty in our hearts also gives us the strength and wisdom to fulfill it. We go forward with trust that God, who has brought us thus far on the way, will give us the strength to finish the journey. And we go forward with the confidence that no matter how difficult the challenge, if we remain true to our founding principles, America will overcome.

Dr. King was on this Earth just 39 years, but the ideas that guided his work and his life are eternal. Here in this place, we will raise a lasting memorial to those eternal truths. So in the presence of his family, his coworkers in freedom's cause, and those who carry on his legacy today, I'm proud to dedicate this ground on behalf of the American people as the site of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. May God bless you all. (Applause.)

###

President Thanks House and Senate for Reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act

December 9, 2006

In 1990, Congress passed the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act to advance our domestic battle against HIV/AIDS. This landmark legislation has provided Americans in need with better access to medical care, antiretroviral treatments, and counseling and has helped them live longer lives. The Act also supports HIV testing to prevent the further spread of this devastating disease.

Laura and I thank the House and Senate for reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act. This legislation focuses on life-saving and life-extending services and increased accountability, and will provide more flexibility to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to direct funding to areas of greatest need. The Ryan White Care Act demonstrates the compassionate and generous spirit of America, and I look forward to signing this important legislation into law.

#

Fact Sheet: The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006

December 19, 2006

Today, President Bush Signed The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act Of 2006. The President and Mrs. Bush appreciate Congress responding to the President's call to reauthorize the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. This bill focuses on life-saving and life-extending services and increased accountability for funding. It will also provide more flexibility to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to direct funding to the areas of greatest need.

- **The President Is Committed To Addressing The Needs Of The 1 Million Americans Living With HIV/AIDS And To Preventing New HIV Infections Within The United States.** Since 2001, the Administration has devoted more than \$74 billion to HIV/AIDS treatment and care, increasing annual treatment funding by 37 percent. The Administration has also devoted more than \$15 billion to HIV/AIDS research to help develop new methods of treatment and prevention, increasing annual research funding by 20 percent.
- **The Ryan White CARE Act Is An Important Tool In Turning The Tide Against HIV/AIDS In America.** For 16 years, the Ryan White CARE Act has provided medical care, antiretroviral treatments, and counseling to people living with HIV who would otherwise have little or no access to care. It also supports HIV testing to prevent this disease from spreading further.

Revising And Extending HIV/AIDS-Related Services

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act Revises And Extends Services Under The Ryan White Care Act (RWCA) Program. This Act will:

- **Provide More Flexibility To Direct Funding To Areas Of Greatest Need.** New supplemental grants will be provided to States with an increasing need for HIV/AIDS-related services due to limited access to health care, high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and other relevant factors. The program's formula for awarding funds will also be updated to consider the number of HIV and AIDS cases – the previous formula considered only the number of AIDS cases.
- **Target Money To Core Life-Saving Medical Services For Those In Need.** Grantees under Titles I, II, and III of the program will use no less than 75 percent of funds to provide core medical services. In addition, the reauthorization calls for the Early Intervention Services grant program to provide core medical services for individuals with HIV/AIDS in underserved populations.
- **Require More Aggressive Oversight Of RWCA Programs.** For example, the Secretary of Health and Human Services will be required to submit biennial reports describing barriers to HIV program integration. In addition, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) will be required to conduct an evaluation concerning how funds are used to provide family-centered care involving outpatient or ambulatory care services under Title IV of the RWCA Program.
- **Standardize Minimum Requirements For The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP).** The Secretary of Health and Human Services will develop and maintain a list of core ADAP medications needed to manage symptoms associated with HIV infection. States will be required to ensure that their programs, at a minimum, provide these core medications.

Addressing HIV/AIDS In Women, Children, And Minorities

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act Authorizes Programs To Address HIV/AIDS In Women, Children, And Minorities. This Act will:

- **Expand Resources For Women, Infants, And Children.** The reauthorization provides for grants to States for the universal testing of newborns for HIV/AIDS. It also supports the provision of family-centered care

for women and children with HIV/AIDS, including the provision of support services such as referrals for inpatient hospital services, treatment for substance abuse, mental health services, and other social services.

- **Codify The Minority AIDS Initiative.** HIV/AIDS has had a devastating impact on minorities in the United States – African-Americans accounted for 49 percent of all HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed in 2005. The Minority AIDS Initiative provides funding for activities to evaluate and address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS and disparities in access, treatment, care, and outcome on racial and ethnic minorities.

#

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

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COPY
FROM ORM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 6, 2007

INFORMATION

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

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).]

COPY
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P has seen
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
7/23/07

FOREWORD BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

July 26, 2007

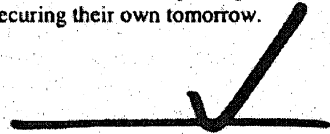
Today, Americans with disabilities are enjoying greater freedom than they have ever known. This is freedom in a very real sense — a freedom beyond the imaginings of persons with disabilities from generations past. This new freedom — the freedom to dream and to do, the freedom to be and to become, the freedom to give and to grow, and the freedom to participate and to progress — is at the heart of my New Freedom Initiative, an agenda that I launched within three weeks of entering office. The New Freedom Initiative aims to remove the obstacles that still remain for Americans with disabilities.

One of the cornerstone projects of the New Freedom Initiative became a reality on January 1, 2007, when the Department of Health and Human Services awarded the first of the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration grants, offering \$1.75 billion over 5 years in competitive grants to States to rebalance their long-term support systems. These grants were created so that individuals have a choice where they live and receive services, and the grants are available to help individuals transition from institutions to the community. Money Follows the Person promotes a strategic approach to building a person-centered, needs-based system that supports quality of care and quality of life in both home and community-based settings and institutions. Giving people with disabilities the ability to choose where they live helps create a strong foundation to help achieve greater freedoms at work, at school, and throughout the community.

Today, people with disabilities have greater access to assistive and universally designed technologies, receive broader opportunities to excel in the classroom, are integrating themselves into the workplace, and are participating actively in every facet of life in their communities. We are fighting against low expectations, and we are winning. Individuals and organizations of every description are answering the clarion call to make things better, not just for people with disabilities, but for everyone.

Considering that over 54 million Americans currently have a disability and that most others will become disabled at some point in their lives, work in this arena touches us all. We must each do what we can to continue to create a world in which equal dignity and treatment are not the exception but the rule, a world in which disability is an incidental rather than a defining characteristic.

This New Freedom Initiative Progress Report details the ongoing work done by the federal government to advance full participation for people with disabilities and to involve them in the work of securing their own tomorrow.

 Approve

Fulfilling America's Promise to Individuals with Disabilities

###

Fact Sheet: Six Years of Progress Under the President's New Freedom Initiative

2007 Progress Report Shows Steps Taken To Reduce Barriers For Americans With Disabilities

July 27, 2007

Today, The White House Released The 2007 Progress Report On The President's New Freedom Initiative For People With Disabilities. Announced in February 2001, the New Freedom Initiative is President George W. Bush's plan to tear down barriers to full integration into American life that remain for many of the 54 million Americans with disabilities. This report highlights the many accomplishments of the Administration in implementing the President's vision and builds upon the reports issued in May 2002 and May 2004.

- **The Full Report Is Available At:** <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/newfreedom/newfreedom-report-2007.html>

The Administration Is Increasing Access For People With Disabilities Through Technology

The President Recognizes The Power Of Assistive And Universally Designed Technology To Create Greater Access To The Workplace, School, And Community Life For Persons With Disabilities. The Administration supports the development of creative ways to leverage the power of new technologies and the removal of financial barriers to acquisition of assistive technology. The Administration has:

- Empowered states to develop plans for acquisition of assistive technology through the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 Amendments, signed in October 2004;
- Aided state efforts to incorporate assistive technology into their education programs;
- Streamlined accessibility standards for voting machines and other important technological advances;
- Provided grants to various agencies to develop and stimulate technological advances;
- Brought together a variety of agencies and organizations to better understand the need for assistive technologies and to discuss ways to make the technology a usable reality;
- Advanced the President's Executive Order centralizing electronic information of use to the disability community at www.DisabilityInfo.gov;
- Continued full implementation of section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, making electronic and information technology acquired by the Federal government accessible to people with disabilities; and
- Worked to develop a robust assistive technology industry at home and abroad.

The Administration Is Expanding Educational Opportunities For Youth With Disabilities

The President Recognizes That People With Disabilities Need A Complete And Appropriate Education In Order To Join Their Communities As Equal Members. In order to further this goal and ensure that no child with a disability is left behind in the educational system, the President has emphasized the importance of including youth with disabilities in the annual improvement mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act. Agencies have responded to the President's direction and furthered his agenda in the following ways:

- The Department of Education has issued final regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, established the Teacher Assistance Corps, monitored the first annual state progress determinations under the IDEA, and launched various other initiatives;
- The Department of Health and Human Services has made specific efforts to reduce youth recidivism, homelessness, institutionalization, and other factors that inhibit a full and complete educational experience and that may disproportionately effect youth with disabilities; and

- The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights has promoted voluntary compliance with applicable civil rights laws relating to students with disabilities, including fostering classroom inclusion and limiting references to disability on report cards, and has also developed other civil rights initiatives.

The Administration Is Helping Integrate Americans With Disabilities Into The Workforce

The President Believes That Full Inclusion Of Persons With Disabilities Into The Workforce Is Important Both For These Individuals And For Our Economy. The unemployment rate for persons with disabilities, while falling, remains unacceptably high. Including persons with disabilities into the workforce is an important goal not only because of the positive impact it will have on the worker but also because of the benefits to the economy as a whole as production increases and people begin to leave government assistance. The Administration has:

- Sought to increase the number of employees with disabilities in the Federal workforce by implementing innovative hiring and working practices, including telework; by revising Schedule A hiring authority; and by forming new disability coordinating councils to address employment within federal agencies;
- Established new initiatives integrating the efforts of the Justice, Labor, Housing and Urban Development, and Veterans Affairs Departments in advancing training and employment for persons with disabilities;
- Released "Disability Employment 101" companion materials with the collaboration of the Justice and Education Departments;
- Vigorously enforced the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Begun implementation of the "Ticket to Work" program as part of the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income programs to eliminate work disincentives among persons with disabilities; and
- Reached out to individuals with disabilities and employers to facilitate productive employment opportunities.

The Administration Is Promoting Full Access To Community Life

The President Believes That All Americans Deserve An Opportunity To Become A Part Of The American Dream. This includes the opportunity to vote, to participate in the marketplace, to own their own property, and to go about their business free of barriers to full participation. This commitment includes implementation of the *Olmstead* decision affirming the right of persons with disabilities to live in their own communities, and goes further by creating new initiatives to promote community participation. The Administration has:

- Instituted the "Money Follows the Person" grant program through the Department of Health and Human Services, which includes \$1.75 billion to support states in building Medicaid programs that enable recipients to live in their communities;
- Won a number of Title II and Title III victories under the Americans with Disabilities Act, successfully defended the constitutionality of the ADA before the Supreme Court, and worked with employers to ensure voluntary compliance with its provisions;
- Established the twenty-agency Interagency Council on Homelessness to seek innovative policy solutions to the high homelessness rate among people with disabilities.;
- Increased transportation options by securing disability provisions in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act, and worked with the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility to simplify access to reasonable transportation options for all;
- Improved access to housing for all through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's enforcement of the Fair Housing Act and the Architectural Barriers Act;

- Issued an ADA checklist for polling places and administered the Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities project;
- Improved access to healthcare with the Medicare Prescription Drug Program, and sought to increase accessibility of healthcare for the elderly, minorities, and other at-risk populations, including people with disabilities; and
- Taken numerous steps to modernize emergency preparedness plans and standards for persons with disabilities, including appointing a new director of disability preparedness at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Administration Will Continue Its Work To Empower People With Disabilities

The President's Vision For People With Disabilities Is Not Yet Achieved, And Continuing To Implement The Provisions Of His New Freedom Initiative Remains One Of His Highest Domestic Priorities. The Administration, through the programs outlined in this document and others, will aggressively pursue innovative strategies to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the American Dream, and empowered to reach their full educational, social, and professional goals.

###



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

October 23, 2007
(House Rules)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 3685 - The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (Rep. Frank (D) MA and 9 cosponsors)

H.R. 3685 would extend existing employment-discrimination provisions of Federal law, including those in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, to establish "a comprehensive Federal prohibition of employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation." The bill raises concerns on constitutional and policy grounds, and if H.R. 3685 were presented to the President, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

H.R. 3685 is inconsistent with the right to the free exercise of religion as codified by Congress in the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). The Act prohibits the Federal Government from substantially burdening the free exercise of religion except for compelling reasons, and then only in the least restrictive manner possible. H.R. 3685 does not meet this standard. For instance, schools that are owned by or directed toward a particular religion are exempted by the bill; but those that emphasize religious principles broadly will find their religious liberties burdened by H.R. 3685.

A second concern is H.R. 3685's authorization of Federal civil damage actions against State entities, which may violate States' immunity under the Eleventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The bill turns on imprecise and subjective terms that would make interpretation, compliance, and enforcement extremely difficult. For instance, the bill establishes liability for acting on "perceived" sexual orientation, or "association" with individuals of a particular sexual orientation. If passed, H.R. 3685 is virtually certain to encourage burdensome litigation beyond the cases that the bill is intended to reach.

Provisions of this bill purport to give Federal statutory significance to same-sex marriage rights under State law. These provisions conflict with the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as the legal union between one man and one woman. The Administration strongly opposes any attempt to weaken this law, which is vital to defending the sanctity of marriage.

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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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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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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4/7/08

Statement By the President

Forty years ago today, America was robbed of one of history's most consequential advocates for equality and civil rights. On this day, we mourn the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and we celebrate his powerful and eloquent message of justice and hope.

Dr. King was a man of courage and vision. He understood that love and compassion will always triumph over bitterness and hatred. His words and deeds inspired Americans of all races to confront prejudice and to work to ensure that our country is a land of opportunity for all its men and women.

We have made progress on Dr. King's dream, yet the struggle is not over. Ensuring freedom and equality for all Americans remains one of our most important responsibilities. As we reflect upon Dr. King's life and legacy, we must recommit ourselves to following his lasting example of service to others.

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

April 22, 2008
(Senate)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 2831 – Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2007
(Rep. Miller (D) CA and 93 cosponsors)

The Administration supports our Nation's anti-discrimination laws and is committed to the timely resolution of discrimination claims. For this and other reasons, the Administration strongly opposes the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2007. H.R. 2831 would allow employees to bring a claim of pay or other employment-related discrimination years or even decades after the alleged discrimination occurred. H.R. 2831 constitutes a major change in, and expanded application of, employment discrimination law. The change would serve to impede justice and undermine the important goal of having allegations of discrimination expeditiously resolved. Furthermore, the effective elimination of any statute of limitations in this area would be contrary to the centuries-old notion of a limitations period for all lawsuits. If H.R. 2831 were presented to the President, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

Meaningful statutes of limitations in these sorts of fact-intensive cases are crucial to the fair administration of justice. The prompt assertion of employment discrimination permits employers to defend against – and allows employees to prove – claims that arise from employment decisions instead of having to litigate claims that are long past. In such cases, evidence often will have been lost, memories will have faded, and witnesses will have moved on. Moreover, effective statutes of limitations benefit employees by encouraging the prompt discovery, assertion, and resolution of employment discrimination claims so that workplace discrimination can be remedied without delay.

H.R. 2831 purports to undo the Supreme Court's decision of May 29, 2007, in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.* by permitting pay discrimination claims to be brought within 180 days not of a discriminatory pay decision, which is the rule under current law, but rather within 180 days of receiving any paycheck affected by such a decision, no matter how far in the past the underlying act of discrimination allegedly occurred. As a result, this legislation effectively eliminates any time requirement for filing a claim involving compensation discrimination. Allegations from 30 years ago or more could be resurrected and filed in federal courts.

Moreover, the bill far exceeds the stated purpose of undoing the Court's decision in *Ledbetter* by extending the expanded statute of limitations to any "other practice" that remotely affects an individual's wages, benefits, or other compensation in the future. This could effectively waive the statute of limitations for a wide variety of claims (such as promotion and arguably even termination decisions) traditionally regarded as actionable only when they occur.

This legislation does not appear to be based on evidence that the current statute of limitations principles have caused any systemic prejudice to the interests of employees, but it is reasonable

to expect the bill's vastly expanded statute of limitations would exacerbate the existing heavy burden on the courts by encouraging the filing of stale claims.

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

July 30, 2008
(House Rules)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 1338 – To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938
(Representative DeLauro (D-CT) and 230 cosponsors)

The Administration strongly supports and aggressively enforces our Nation's anti-discrimination laws and is firmly committed to the principle of equal pay for equal work. But rather than contributing to that cause, H.R. 1338 would make enforcement of these laws more difficult and error-prone and invite a surge of litigation. Therefore, the Administration strongly opposes the "Paycheck Fairness Act." The bill would unjustifiably amend the Equal Pay Act (EPA) to allow for, among other things, unlimited compensatory and punitive damages, even when a disparity in pay was unintentional. It also would encourage discrimination claims to be made based on factors unrelated to actual pay discrimination by allowing pay comparisons between potentially different labor markets. In addition, it would require the Department of Labor (DOL) to replace its successful approach to detecting pay discrimination with a failed methodology that was abandoned because it had a 93 percent false positive rate. Thus, if H.R. 1338 were presented to the President, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

The bill's provision for unlimited compensatory and punitive damages without even a showing of intent is especially troubling. Other employment statutes, such as Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, provide for limited compensatory and punitive damages of up to \$300,000 (but unlimited backpay). These statutes only provide for such damages after a showing that the discrimination was intentional and, for punitive damages, that the employer "engaged in a discriminatory practice or discriminatory practices with malice or with reckless indifference to the federally protected rights of an aggrieved individual." To permit punitive damages in the absence of intent or reckless indifference would be wrong. Moreover, there is no need to add punitive damages to the EPA, since such damages are already available under Title VII for pay discrimination.

Further, the bill appears to significantly change one of the affirmative defenses available under the EPA that is used to explain wage differentials due to such nondiscriminatory factors as market rates and prior salary history. Changing the "factor other than sex" affirmative defense would impose a tremendous burden on employers. They would be required to prove, in order to counter the presumption of wage discrimination, that the reason for the wage differential is not only something other than sex, but that it also passes a "job relatedness" and a "business necessity" test that would be determined by a judge or jury. The judicial system -- judges and juries -- would supplant the free market system to determine how businesses must be run and how much they must pay individual workers. This will substantially harm the American economy and the labor market.

H.R. 1338 also would significantly change the "establishment" requirement under the EPA to allow for pay comparisons within the same county (or political subdivision) rather than within

the same physical place of business. Moreover, the bill would permit and invite the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to develop rules defining the term "establishment" more broadly, which would potentially allow for the comparison of employee pay in different locations – with different market rates and costs of living. For example, the bill contemplates rules under which an employee working for a company in Omaha, Nebraska, might be able to compare her salary even to that of a coworker in New York, New York, to prove her case of discrimination. Such a comparison of dissimilarly situated employees makes no sense if the goal is to identify differences in pay that are due to discrimination.

Finally, the bill would have DOL abandon the refined tools and methodologies for discerning pay discrimination (such as regression analysis) that have led to an impressive enforcement record on systemic discrimination in recent years. In its place, the bill would have DOL use imprecise and dubious statistical models. Moreover, the bill directs DOL to resume using the Equal Opportunity (EO) Survey to identify contractors for compliance evaluations. However, DOL rescinded the EO Survey collection requirement after an independent study determined that the EO Survey had a 93 percent false positive rate and wrongly classified one-third of true discriminators as non-discriminators. There is no valid reason for requiring the reinstitution of a survey shown to suffer from substantial inaccuracies. The effectiveness of DOL's enforcement – without use of the EO Survey – is clearly demonstrated by its unprecedented successes in enforcement over the past three years. In Fiscal Year 2007, DOL recorded a 78 percent increase over FY 2001 in monetary remedies obtained for workers who had been subjected to unlawful employment discrimination. This marked the third consecutive year that DOL has posted record enforcement numbers in its pursuit of systemic discrimination.

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Withdrawal Marker

The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Memorandum	Possible question on legislation to amend the ADA - To: POTUS - From: Karl Zinsmeister	2	09/08/2008	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:

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

FRC ID:

14346

OA Num.:

14456

NARA Num.:

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Statement on the ADA Amendments Act of 2008

September 17, 2008

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is instrumental in allowing individuals with disabilities to fully participate in our economy and society, and the Administration supports efforts to enhance its protections. The Administration believes that the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, which has just passed Congress, is a step in that direction, and is encouraged by the improvements made to the bill during the legislative process. The President looks forward to signing the ADAAA into law.

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President Bush Signs S. 3406 Into Law

On Thursday, September 25, 2008, the President signed into law:

S. 3406, the "ADA Amendments Act of 2008," which clarifies and broadens the definition of disability and expands the population eligible for protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

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