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RESTRICTION CODES

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- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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CRIME LEGACY

A TIMELINE (2001–2008)

DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: Karl Zinsmeister

FROM: Ryan Smith

SUBJECT: Crime Legacy

President Bush's promise of compassionate conservatism is nowhere more evident than in his record on criminal justice. He aggressively sought to bring criminals to justice, asserting, for example, that "those who commit crimes with guns will find a determined adversary in my Administration." President Bush also took unprecedented efforts to protect society's most vulnerable with his initiatives to catch, prosecute, and punish perpetrators of crimes against children. He showed compassion for those who have paid their debt to society. President Bush tapped into the resources of faith-based and community organizations to give ex-offenders hope of a second chance through his prisoner reentry initiatives. He harnessed the power of DNA technology both to put criminals behind bars and to put the convictions of the wrongly convicted behind them. President Bush's record on crime is marked by aggressive prosecution of criminals and compassion for both rehabilitated offenders and victims, true to his principles of compassionate conservatism.

2001—Setting the Stage: Taking a Stand Against Gun Crime

Soon after taking office, President Bush in February transmitted to Congress his fiscal year 2002 budget entitled "A Blueprint for New Beginnings." As part of his top policy priority to "Combat Crime and Drug Abuse," the President proposed two new initiatives to crack down on gun crime and promote gun safety. First, the President proposed to launch Project Sentry, a new Federal-State partnership to improve school safety by prosecuting juveniles who bring guns to school or use them illegally, as well as the adults who supply them. Second, the President honored his 2000 campaign promise "to ensure safety locks are available for every handgun" with the roll-out of Project ChildSafe, a program to fund the purchase and distribution of child safety locks for handguns.

In May, the President's march against gun crime took him to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There he launched Project Safe Neighborhoods, a comprehensive National strategy to vigorously enforce firearms laws and help communities reduce gun crime. Modeled in part after the city of Richmond's successful Project Exile, the plan called for the partnering of Federal, State, and local law enforcement, prosecutors, and community leaders in each of the 94 Federal judicial districts. Led by the Department of Justice (DOJ), the five-part plan consisted of: (1) Partnerships among the parties listed above, (2) Strategic Planning, (3) Training, (4) Community Outreach and Public Awareness, and (5) Accountability in the form of semi-annual reporting by

each U.S. Attorney. The President backed up the initiative with requests for \$2.9 billion in funding over the course of the Administration, of which Congress ultimately appropriated \$2.2 billion. Those PSN funds permitted the recruitment of more than 200 federal prosecutors to prosecute gun crime and gun-related cases and made available approximately \$63 million in grants for the hiring of more than 550 new State and local prosecutors to focus on gun crime. Additionally, nearly 33,000 individuals have been trained in over 300 nationally-sponsored training events.

2002—Protecting the Vulnerable

President Bush in an April 2002 speech to leaders of victims' rights groups announced his support for a Crime Victims' Rights amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The amendment, sponsored by Senators Kyl and Feinstein, would have placed on par with defendants' rights the rights of victims of violent crime in Federal or State courts: (1) to reasonable and timely notice of any public proceeding involving the crime or the release or escape of the accused; (2) not to be excluded from such public proceedings; (3) to be heard at the public release, plea, sentencing, pardon, and commutation proceedings in a reasonable manner; and (4) to have decisions that duly consider their safety, just and timely claims to restitution from the offender, and interests in avoiding unreasonable delay. Despite the President's support, as in previous years, the amendment languished in Congress, though some elements would resurface again in the 108th Congress.

In June, President Bush joined the congressional effort to revise and strengthen child pornography laws when his Administration announced its strong support of H.R. 4623, the Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act of 2002. Congressman Lamar Smith introduced the bill in response to the Supreme Court's invalidating two provisions of the Child Pornography Prevention Act of 1996 as unconstitutional, including its ban on "virtual" child pornography (computer-generated images of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct). With the President's support, the bill passed the House 413-8. The Senate held hearings on a companion bill introduced by Senator Carnahan, S. 2511, but did not pass either bill. Many of the bills' provisions, however, would later be enacted as part of the PROTECT Act in the 108th Congress.

The President's efforts to protect vulnerable children continued with his August announcement of the first-ever White House Conference on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children. The October 2 conference brought together policy makers, experts, key officials, community leaders, teachers, and law enforcement to share progress and generate new ideas to help prevent the victimization of children. The President used the conference to announce steps being taken by his Administration to strengthen the AMBER Alert program, including the creation of a national AMBER Alert Coordinator, and called for Congress to join in the effort by urging passage of S. 2896, the National AMBER Alert Network Act of 2002, which the Senate had passed by unanimous consent on September 10. The House, shortly after the conference, passed companion legislation, H.R. 5422, the Child Abduction Prevention Act, by a vote of 390-24 on October 8. Nonetheless, Congress did not send either bill to the President's desk.

Following on the success of the White House Conference on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children, President Bush on October 23 hosted a roundtable discussion with Federal, State, and

local law enforcement to discuss protecting children from online sexual exploitation. After the roundtable, President Bush delivered a speech where he outlined steps taken by his Administration to expand the investigation and vigorous prosecution of child exploitation on the Internet. Those steps included increasing prosecutions under the FBI's Innocent Images initiative, doubling funding for DOJ's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task forces, and calling on Congress to pass Rep. Smith's Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act.

2003—Harnessing Technology to Promote Justice

President Bush in March 2003 launched *Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology*, a billion-dollar, five-year initiative to improve the use of DNA in the criminal justice system. Specifically, the initiative aimed to solve crime, protect the innocent from wrongful prosecution, and identify missing persons. Toward that end, the initiative contemplated eliminating current backlogs of unanalyzed DNA samples; strengthening crime laboratory capacity; and training law enforcement, attorneys, and others on the use of DNA.

As President Bush pressed forward on DNA technology, legislation to build upon the Administration's efforts to strengthen the AMBER Alert system began to gain momentum in Congress. The House in March passed by a vote of 410-14 the Child Abduction Prevention Act. The President promptly issued a statement lauding House passage and calling on the Senate to act. The Senate heeded the President's call and in April unanimously passed its version of the bill—known as the PROTECT Act. On April 30, President Bush signed the PROTECT Act into law in a Rose Garden ceremony. The Act built upon the President's efforts to expand and improve the AMBER Alert program, including statutory establishment of the National AMBER Alert coordinator. The bill also gave law enforcement valuable new tools to deter, detect, investigate, prosecute, and punish crimes against children, including the provisions of the Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act restoring the prohibition on computer-generated child pornography—provisions that the President had consistently championed.)

Meanwhile, the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 was working its way through Congress, and the President in June signed the bill into law. He issued a statement praising the bill's measures to strengthen State- and community-based programs that prevent child abuse and family violence and treat the victims of those crimes, as well as its requirement for criminal background checks for foster and adoptive parents.

In September, the Department of Justice launched, under the auspices of the President's PSN initiative, the first in a series of public service announcements (PSAs) entitled "Gun Crimes Hit Home." The series of PSAs, intended to educate America's youth about the perils of gun crime, has included radio and television spots entitled "Mothers," "Sentenced," "Family Prison," "Sounds of Gun Crimes," "Time Served," and "Babies." Over \$140 million of airtime and advertising space has been donated to this PSN gun crime initiative since its inception.

Continuing with his efforts to protect children and families, President Bush in October proclaimed October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In connection with the proclamation, the President announced in an East Room speech two new initiatives to address the problem of domestic violence in America's communities. First, he announced the creation of

Family Justice Centers, an initiative led by DOJ to help local communities provide comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence. He also announced the creation of the Safe and Bright Futures for Children initiative, which provides grants to community- and faith-based organizations to help children who witness domestic violence, within the Department Health and Human Services (HHS).

2004—Promoting Successful Reentry, a Culture of Life, and DNA Technology

Declaring that “America is the land of the second chance, and when the gates of prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life,” President Bush kicked off his criminal justice efforts for 2004 with the announcement of a Prisoner Reentry Initiative in his State of the Union address. The four-year, \$300 million initiative linked together the Departments of Justice, Labor, and Housing and Urban Development, in close cooperation with faith-based and community organizations, to help ex-offenders find and keep employment, obtain transitional housing, and receive mentoring. The President saw these three measures as essential to ending the cycle of crime and reincarceration that ravages communities across the country.

By April, the President Bush’s criminal justice efforts returned to protecting children from crime—this time the unborn. In April he signed into law the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which recognizes unborn children who are injured or killed during the commission of a Federal crime as crime victims themselves. As a result, causing death or bodily injury to an unborn child while committing any of 68 Federal offenses is now treated as a separate offense.

In June, Attorney General Ashcroft announced the deployment of Violent Crime Impact Teams (VCITs) to 15 communities throughout the country. The VCITs, comprising Federal agents from ATF, DEA, and the U.S. Marshals Service, were deployed with the goal of decreasing, within six months, the number of homicides and violent crimes, particularly those involving firearms. The VCIT initiative worked in conjunction with PSN by adding additional resources to target cities.

A number of criminal justice issues surfaced in July of 2004. First, the Administration announced results from the first year of Operation Predator, an initiative led by the Department of Homeland Security to identify, investigate, and arrest child predators. From July 2003 to July 2004, Operation Predator resulted in the arrest of more than 3,200 child predators. Also in July, President Bush took an important step to address one of the fastest growing financial crimes in the nation: identity theft. On July 15, he signed into law the Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act, a bill to strengthen penalties for identity thieves. Later that month, the President dedicated his weekly radio address to the annual Federal report entitled “America’s Children in Brief,” which reported a dramatic 78 percent decrease in the teen violent crime rate between 1993 and 2002.

On October 30, President Bush signed into law the Justice for All Act of 2004, which earlier in the month passed the House 393-14 and the Senate by unanimous consent. The purpose of the Act was to protect crime victims’ rights, eliminate the backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, and improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories. The bill enshrined in public law many of the ideas

that the President promoted as part of the Crime Victims' Rights Amendment and his DNA Initiative.

2005—A Renewed Focus on DNA and Deterring Gang Violence

Criminal justice issues took center stage early in the President's second term when President Bush in his February 2 State of the Union address renewed support for his DNA Initiative. He urged the 109th Congress to provide a full \$1 billion in funding for the use of DNA evidence to solve crime, prevent wrongful convictions, and identify the missing. In addition, he called for Congress to provide an additional \$50 million to fund a new Administration proposal to train defense counsel, prosecutors, and judges in capital cases.

In the meantime, legislation to reduce gang violence was working its way through the House. In May, the Administration issued a Statement of Administration Policy supporting House passage of H.R. 1279, the Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act of 2005. The bill, which would have expanded the coverage of Federal laws targeted at gang activities and boosted the sentences available for violations, passed the House 279-144. The bill ultimately stalled in the Senate.

2006—Ensuring the Safety of Women and Children

On January 5, 2006, President Bush signed into law H.R. 3402, the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005, which reauthorized and strengthened the Violence Against Women Act. In May, the President again turned his attention to identity theft. After meeting with victims of identity theft in the Roosevelt Room, he signed an Executive Order Creating the Nation's first-ever "Identity Theft Task Force." The Task Force, chaired by the Attorney General and chairman of the FTC, was designed to marshal the resources of 13 Federal agencies to crack down on criminals who traffic in stolen identities.

In March, Attorney General Gonzales announced the expansion of the President's PSN initiative to include efforts to combat gang violence with the launch of the Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative. The \$15 million initiative, launched in six sites (Los Angeles, Tampa, Cleveland, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Milwaukee, and Pennsylvania's "222 Corridor"), partnered U.S. Attorneys with State and local law enforcement to reduce gang membership and gang violence through enforcement, prevention, and re-entry strategies. (The program was expanded to four additional sites—Rochester, Oklahoma City, Indianapolis, and Raleigh-Durham—in April 2007.) Focused enforcement efforts under the Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative showed strong early results: In the target area of Cleveland, for example, violent crime was down by more than 15 percent.

The next few months brought with them several advances in the effort to protect children from exploitation. The Administration in May launched Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a DOJ-led initiative to combat the proliferation of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children. PSC is implemented through a partnership of U.S. Attorneys; ICAC task forces; Federal agencies; advocacy organizations such as the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children; and State and local law enforcement officials in each judicial district. Congress followed suit when in July it passed H.R. 4472, the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act

of 2006. The Act, signed into law by President Bush on July 17, the 25th anniversary of the abduction of Adam Walsh, built on the Administration's progress in four important ways: It (1) expanded the national sex offender registry, (2) strengthened Federal penalties for crimes against children, (3) authorized new ICAC task forces, and (4) created a national child abuse registry and required investigators to do background checks on adoptive and foster parents.

On July 25, the Attorney General launched the National Gang Targeting, Enforcement, and Coordination Center (GangTECC), a DOJ-led multi-agency operation designed to help disrupt and dismantle the most significant and violent gangs in the United States. The Federal agents assigned to GangTECC work in close collaboration with the analysts at the National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC), another multi-agency center integrating the gang intelligence assets of Federal, State, and local law enforcement that was established in January when the President signed into law the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005. Attorney General Mukasey opened a new Northern Virginia facility in November 2007 to house both centers.

In October, the Administration announced the first of three initiatives aimed at combating a slight 2.5 percent increase in violent crime that was reported in June by the FBI's *Preliminary Uniform Crime Report* for 2005. On October 16, President Bush's Justice Department announced the Initiative for Safer Communities, the purpose of which was to understand the reasons for the uptick and what the Federal government could do to help. DOJ dispatched Department officials to 18 metropolitan areas to study local crime rates with regional law enforcement officials and community stakeholders. The visits did not reveal a national cause, but they did identify several common themes, including an increase in youth violence, an increase in loosely organized (as opposed to hierarchically disciplined) gangs, and an increase in the illegal use of firearms that themselves were illegally acquired.

Also in October, the President participated as a panelist in a Conference on School Safety, which he had convened in response to a wave of tragic school shootings in Colorado, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania, and threats of school violence in many other States. The Conference, held in Chevy Chase, Maryland, brought together experts and stakeholders to discuss how Federal, State, and local governments can work together with schools, communities, and families to ensure school safety.

2007—Tragedy at Virginia Tech

Just six months after the President hosted the Conference on School Safety, the Nation confronted the tragic events of April 16 at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). On the morning of April 16, a Virginia Tech student with a history of mental health problems shot and killed 32 individuals and injured many others on campus before taking his own life. Under President Bush's direction, DOJ immediately deployed ATF and FBI agents to the scene. President Bush also addressed the Nation from the White House; traveled to Blacksburg, Virginia, to offer his condolences at the Virginia Tech memorial convocation; issued a proclamation honoring the victims of the tragedy and ordering the flag to be flown at half-staff; and honored the victims at the White House Correspondents Dinner. Shortly thereafter, the

President directed Attorney General Gonzales and the Secretaries of HHS and Education to undertake a study and make recommendations to him for preventing such tragedies in the future.

In May, with the Democrats in control of Congress, the House passed the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007, H.R. 1592, by a vote of 237-180. The Administration threatened to veto the unnecessary and constitutionally suspect bill. Although the President supports strong criminal penalties for violent crime, including crime based on personal characteristics, such as race, color, religion, or national origin, State and local criminal laws already provide criminal penalties for such violence, many of which carry stiffer penalties than those in the bill. The bill eventually stalled in the Senate.

With the summer of 2007 also came the launch of two more initiatives to combat the previously reported uptick in violent crime. First, on May 15, building on PSN and the Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative, the Attorney General announced new efforts to combat violent crime at the Federal, State, and local levels, including a plan to hire additional Federal prosecutors to focus on violent crime and an expansion of a fugitive roundup led by the U.S. Marshals Service. Second, on June 1, the Administration transmitted to Congress a legislative proposal to help investigate and prosecute many types of violent crime. The DOJ-authored bill, entitled the Violent Crime and Anti-Terrorism Act of 2007, comprised six titles: (1) violent crime prevention and enforcement, (2) prevention of on-online child exploitation, (3) the Proceeds of Crime Act, (4) drug trafficking enforcement, (5) crime victims' rights, and (6) counter-terrorism and national security. Though the bill did not advance in Congress, several provisions formed the basis of legislation subsequently considered by Congress.

On June 13, the President received from the Attorney General and the Secretaries of HHS and Education the report he requested in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech tragedy. Among the report's recommendations was to "facilitate better cooperation and communication between states and the Federal government to ensure that firearms background checks are thorough and complete." Upon receipt, the President stated his intent to work with Congress to strengthen the instant background check system.

In the fall of 2007, DOJ awarded, pursuant to its Targeting Violent Crime Initiative, \$75 million to 103 State and local law enforcement agencies to target specific violent crime challenges in their jurisdictions. The initiative built on intelligence-led policing strategies, which require the collection and analysis of data to anticipate, prevent, and deter crime as opposed to simply responding to crimes after they occur. The task forces were located throughout the U.S. and targeted gun violence, gang violence, and drug-related violence as well as other crimes.

2008—Protecting Communities and Providing a Second Chance

The President in January made good on his commitment to strengthen the instant background check system to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and other potentially dangerous persons when he signed into law H.R. 2640, the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007. The House and Senate in December 2007 passed the bill by unanimous consent in the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings, the perpetrator of which had a prohibiting mental health history that was not available to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), the FBI

administered database of individuals prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms. The Act attempts to fill the gap by requiring Federal agencies, and incentivizing State and local governments, to transmit accurate information on prohibited individuals to NICS. Additionally, the Act affords individuals who are prohibited from possessing a gun based on an adjudication of a mental defect or a commitment to a mental institution the opportunity to obtain relief from that disability. Prior to the Act, such a person was effectively subject to a lifetime prohibition on possessing firearms.

The longstanding controversy over the "100:1" crack-cocaine sentencing disparity ratio came to a head in February as a March 3 deadline neared to overturn the U.S. Sentencing Commission's decision to retroactively reduce penalties for crack offenses. The 100:1 ratio refers to the fact that by statute it takes 100 times more powder cocaine than crack cocaine by weight to trigger the same mandatory minimum penalty, though the difference in average sentence lengths is much less—3 to 6 times longer for crack. Fueling the controversy is the fact that the vast majority of Federal crack offenders are black (82% in 2006), while the majority of powder offenders are Hispanic (58%) or white (14%). The retroactive reduction of prison sentences would result in the release of as many as 19,500 prisoners approximately 27 months, on average, before their sentences would otherwise expire. DOJ, which supports the differential based on the destructive effect crack has on communities (the reason Congress originally created tougher penalties for crack), strongly opposed retroactive application over concern for the safety of the communities into which the prisoners could be released. With the March 3 effective date fast approaching, the President authorized the Attorney General to advocate for legislation to block retroactivity if he simultaneously signaled a willingness to address the crack-cocaine disparity. (Then President-elect Bush stated in January 2001 that the issue "ought to be addressed by making sure the powder-cocaine and crack-cocaine penalties are the same.") Despite DOJ's intimations, there was little appetite in the Democrat-controlled Congress to overturn the Commission's decision. Retroactive application took effect on March 3, and DOJ's offer to address the disparity expired.

In a nod to the success of the President's Prisoner Reentry Initiative, which the President announced in his 2004 State of the Union address, in April the Democrat-controlled Congress passed and President Bush signed into law the Second Chance Act of 2007. The legislation formally authorizes key elements of the President's successful Prisoner Reentry Initiative to help prisoners effectively reintegrate into the community. The Act also enhances drug treatment, monitoring, and transitional services for ex-offenders through partnerships with local corrections agencies and faith-based and community organizations.

Crime (2001-2008)

<u>Date</u>		<u>Tab</u>
<u>2001</u>		
Feb. 28	<u>A Blueprint For New Beginnings--9. Combat Crime and Drug Abuse</u> <i>This document outlines the President's Plan of Action in his 2002 budget to address crime and drugs.</i>	1
Mar. 28	<u>National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2001</u> <i>President Bush proclaims April 2001, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and encourages Americans to join in the vital task of protecting young people from harm.</i>	2
Apr. 10	<u>National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2001</u> <i>President Bush proclaims the week of April 22, 2001 as National Crime Victims' Rights Week and urges all Americans to share the burden of reducing crime in their communities.</i>	3
May 9	<u>Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2001</u> <i>President Bush proclaims May 15, 2001, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the week of May 13 through as Police Week.</i>	4
May 14	<u>Remarks by the President on Project Safe Neighborhoods</u> <i>In remarks to law enforcement officers and organizations in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, President Bush recognizes gun violence as a serious problem and announces his Administration's intent to crack-down on gun crime, including through Project Safe Neighborhoods.</i>	5
Jun. 11	<u>Remarks by President Bush on McVeigh Execution</u>	6
Oct. 2	<u>President Proclaims National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2001</u> <i>The President proclaims October 2001 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.</i>	7
Nov. 30	<u>National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2001</u> <i>The President proclaims December 2001 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.</i>	8
<u>2002</u>		
Mar. 20	<u>Policy Time Memorandum re: Crime Victims and Crack Sentencing</u> <i>This memorandum briefs the President on the Crime Victims' Rights Amendment that Senators Kyl and Feinstein were expected to introduce and proposes that the President endorse the amendment during April's Crime Victims' Rights Week. Additionally, in anticipation of a recommendation by the U.S. Sentencing Commission to Congress to reduce penalties for crack cocaine, the memo updates the President on DOJ's position. DOJ testified that it did not support a reduction in penalties for crack, but that in order to reduce the differential it would support an increase in penalties for powder cocaine.</i>	9
Apr. 1	<u>National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2002</u> <i>President Bush proclaims April 2002 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.</i>	10

Apr. 16	<u>President Calls for Crime Victims' Rights Amendment</u>	11
Apr. 18	<u>National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2002</u> <i>President Bush proclaimed April 21 through April 27, 2002, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week and reiterated his support for a Federal Constitutional Amendment to protect the rights of victims of violent crime.</i>	12
May 10	<u>Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2002</u>	13
Jun. 25	<u>Statement of Administration Policy-HR4623 Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act of 2002</u> <i>This Statement of Administration Policy supports House passage of the Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act of 2002, a bill to revise and strengthen the Nation's child pornography laws in light of Ashcroft v. Free Speech Coalition.</i>	14
Aug. 6	<u>President Announces Steps to Keep America's Children Safe</u> <i>In a Rose Garden speech, President Bush announces his intent to convene a White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children.</i> <u>Fact Sheet: Committed to Keeping America's Children Safe</u>	15
Sept. 30	<u>Policy Time Memorandum re: White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children</u> <i>This memorandum briefs the President on an upcoming White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway children to be held on October 2. The memorandum described the President's anticipated participation in a roundtable, delivery of remarks to more than 600 people, and announcement of support for the Hutchison-Feinstein National AMBER Alert Network Act of 2002.</i>	16
Oct. 1	<u>National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2002</u> <i>The President proclaims October 2002 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.</i>	17
Oct. 2	<u>Remarks by the President at White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children</u> <i>President Bush addresses 600 people assembled to attend the first ever White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children held at the Ronald Reagan building in Washington, DC. The President announced steps being taken by his Administration to strengthen the AMBER Alert program, including the first-ever appointment of a national AMBER Alert Coordinator, and called for Congress to join in the effort by urging passage of the National AMBER Alert Network Act of 2002.</i>	18
Oct. 7	<u>President Commits Federal Resources to Assist in DC Area Violence</u> <i>In this brief statement, President Bush describes the Federal resources deployed by his Administration to assist local law enforcement in responding to the D.C. sniper incidents, including FBI profiling experts and ballistics analysts from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.</i>	19
Oct. 21	<u>Policy Time Memorandum re: Sexual Exploitation of Children</u> <i>This memorandum briefs the President on an upcoming event where, through his participation in a roundtable and delivery of remarks, he would highlight Federal law enforcement's efforts to fight child pornography and child exploitation on the Internet and to prosecute offenders.</i>	20

Oct. 23	<u>President Increases Federal Efforts to Promote Online Safety</u> <u>Fact Sheet: Increasing Online Safety for America's Children</u> <i>In a speech to law enforcement representatives gathered in the EEOB's Presidential Hall, President Bush outlined steps that his Administration was taking to expand the investigation and vigorous prosecution of child exploitation on the Internet. His remarks highlighted the following: (1) "Innocent Images," a successful initiative operated by the FBI, in which agents pose as children on the Internet to identify and bring to justice sexual predators and rescue child victims; (2) the various Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces, which are operated by State and local officials in various cities throughout the country and are funded by DOJ; and (3) recent successful operations against Internet child exploitation by the Customs Service and the Postal Inspection Service.</i>	21
Oct. 24	<u>President Thanks Law Enforcement Officials for Work on Sniper Case</u> <i>In this Statement by the President, President Bush thanks law enforcement and citizens for their tireless work that resulted in the apprehension of the suspected D.C. snipers. The President also expressed his condolences to the victims and their families.</i>	22
Dec. 3	<u>National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2002</u> <i>The President proclaims December 2003 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.</i>	23
2003		
Mar.	<u>Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology</u> <i>This document details the launch of the President's DNA initiative, known as Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology. The \$1 billion, 5 year initiative sought to improve the use of DNA in the criminal justice system with goals of solving crime, protecting the innocent from wrongful prosecution, and identifying missing persons.</i>	24
Mar. 26	<u>National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2003</u> <i>President Bush proclaims April 2003, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and encourages Americans to join together to support strong families, and protect our children from abuse, neglect, and maltreatment.</i>	25
Mar. 27	<u>Statement by the President</u> <i>The President praised House passage of the Child Abduction Prevention Act.</i>	26
Apr. 4	<u>National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2003</u> <i>President Bush proclaims the week of April 6, 2003, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week and urges all to embrace the cause of victims' rights.</i>	27
Apr. 30	<u>President Signs PROTECT Act</u> <u>President's Signing Statement</u> <i>The President signs S. 151, the PROTECT Act of 2003. This legislation gives law enforcement authorities valuable new tools to deter, detect, investigate, prosecute, and punish crimes against America's children. In particular, the Act builds upon the Administration's ongoing efforts to expand and improve the AMBER Alert program.</i>	28
May 9	<u>Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2003</u>	29

	<i>President Bush proclaims May 15, 2003, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the week of May 11, 2003 as Police Week.</i>	
May 23	<u>National Missing Children's Day, 2003</u> <i>President Bush proclaims May 25, 2003, as National Missing Children's Day. He calls upon Americans to commemorate this observance by celebrating those children who have been returned to their loved ones, remembering those young people who are missing, and continuing to work together on every front to protect our children from those who would seek to harm them.</i>	30
Jun. 25	<u>President Bush Signs "Keeping Children Safe Act"</u> <i>President Bush signs the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003. The Act will strengthen state and community-based programs that prevent child abuse and family violence and treat victims. The legislation will help will also require criminal background checks for foster and adoptive parents.</i>	31
Oct. 8	<u>National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2003</u> <u>President Bush Proclaims October Domestic Violence Awareness Month</u> <u>Fact Sheet: Preventing Domestic Violence</u> <i>The President proclaims October 2003 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urges all Americans to help victims of domestic violence and to work together to address this tragic problem.</i>	1
Oct. 25	<u>Protection From Pornography Week, 2003</u> <i>The President proclaims the week of October 26, 2003, as Protection From Pornography Week.</i>	2
Dec. 9	<u>National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2003</u> <i>The President proclaims December 2003 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.</i>	3
<u>2004</u>		
Jan. 20	<u>State of the Union Address</u> <i>In his State of the Union Address, President Bush proposed a four-year, \$300 million initiative to reduce recidivism and the societal costs of reincarceration by helping inmates find work when they return to their communities. The President's initiative, contained in his FY 2005 budget, will harness the resources and experience of faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) in helping returning inmates contribute to society.</i>	4
Jan. 23	<u>Fact Sheet: Protecting Communities by Helping Returning Inmates Find Work</u> <i>This fact sheet describes the President's Prisoner Reentry Initiative, a plan to reduce recidivism and protect communities by partnering with faith-based and community organizations to help ex-offenders find and keep jobs, obtain transitional housing, and receive mentoring. The President announced the initiative in his Jan. 20 State of the Union address.</i>	5
Apr. 1	<u>President Bush Signs Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004</u> <i>The President makes remarks at the signing of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004, which provides that, under Federal law, any person who causes death or injury to a child in the womb shall be charged with a</i>	6

	<i>separate offense, in addition to any charges relating to the mother.</i>	
Apr. 2	<u>National Child Abuse Prevention Month 2004</u> <i>President Bush proclaims April 2004, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and encourages all citizens to take an active role in creating a caring community and help protect America's children from abuse and neglect.</i>	7
Apr. 17	<u>National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2004</u> <i>President Bush proclaims the week of April 18, 2003, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week and encourages all Americans to embrace the cause of victims' rights and help to advance it throughout our society.</i>	8
May 8	<u>Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2004</u> <i>President Bush proclaims May 15, 2004, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the week of May 9, 2003 as Police Week.</i>	9
May 10	<u>Information Memorandum for the President re: Civil Rights</u> <i>This memorandum briefs the President on the basic principles and accomplishments of his Administration on civil rights issues, including those pertaining to crime. Specifically, the memo highlighted this Administration's: (1) first-ever ban on racial profiling in Federal law enforcement, (2) cooperation with law enforcement to address civil rights violations by police departments; (3) aggressive investigation and prosecution of bias motivated crimes perpetrated against people of Middle Eastern origin in the wake of 9/11, and (4) prosecution of civil rights violations at higher levels than the prior Administration.</i>	10
May 17	<u>Information Memorandum for the President re: Crime</u> <i>The memorandum updates the President on key accomplishments of the Administration on crime issues, and on the status of several crime initiatives. In the category of "Supporting Responsible Gun Ownership," the memo describes the Administration's efforts to: (1) prosecute criminals who use guns, (2) protect the rights of gun owners, (3) prevent crime with guns, and (4) promote gun safety. Under the heading "Protecting Children and Other Vulnerable Victims," the memo described Administration efforts to: (1) expand AMBER Alert, (2) confront child pornography and obscenity, (3) combat domestic violence, (4) prevent school violence, and (5) support rights for victims of crime. The memo highlights the President's DNA Prisoner Reentry initiatives.</i>	11
Jul. 7	<u>Fact Sheet: Operation Predator</u> <i>This fact sheet discusses the results of Operation Predator, an initiative to identify, investigate, and arrest child predators, which was launched in July 2003.</i>	12
Jul. 15	<u>President Bush Signs Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act</u> <i>The President signs legislation which defines and enhances the penalty for identity theft.</i>	13
Jul. 16	<u>President Announces Initiatives to Combat Human Trafficking</u> <i>President Bush discusses what America is doing to stop human trafficking both at home and abroad.</i>	14

Jul. 17	<u>President's Radio Address</u> <i>The President discusses violent crime among teenagers.</i>	15
Aug.	<u>Record of Achievement-Fighting Crime</u> <i>Summarizes the President's record of fighting crime.</i>	16
Dec. 2	<u>National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2004</u> <i>The President proclaims December 2004 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.</i>	17
2005		
Jan. 25	Memorandum for the President re: Possible State of the Union Initiatives <i>The memorandum proposes to the President two possible criminal justice initiatives for the State of the Union. Under the first proposal, the Gangs Involvement Prevention Initiative, HHS would award grants to faith-based and community organizations in targeted communities to help youth at-risk of gang influence or involvement. Under the second proposal, DOJ would launch a \$25 million, 3 year initiative to give grants to states to train defense counsel, prosecutors, and judges in the handling of capital cases. (Note: This memo is incorrectly dated January 25, 2004.)</i>	18
Feb. 2	<u>State of the Union Address</u> <u>Fact Sheet: Ensuring Justice and Fairness for All Americans</u> <i>In his State of the Union, President Bush discussed his Administration's efforts to expand the use of DNA evidence to prevent wrongful conviction and announced the he would be sending to Congress a proposal to fund special training for defense counsel in capital cases.</i>	19
Feb. 7	<u>National Consumer Protection Week, 2005</u> <i>The President proclaims the week of February 6, 2005, as National Consumer Protection Week and calls upon government officials, industry leaders, and consumer advocates to provide citizens with information about identity theft and how they can be responsible consumers, and encourages all citizens to take an active role in protecting their personal information.</i>	20
Mar. 31	<u>National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2005</u> <i>President Bush proclaims the week of April 18, 2005, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week and encourages all Americans to highlight and advance the cause of victims' rights in their communities.</i>	21
Apr. 1	<u>National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2005</u> <i>President Bush proclaims April 2005, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and encourages all Americans to protect our children from abuse and neglect and to help ensure that every child can grow up in a secure and loving environment.</i>	22
May 11	<u>Statement of Administration Policy-H.R. 1279- Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act of 2005</u> <i>This Statement of Administration Policy supports House passage of H.R. 1279, which would expand the coverage of Federal laws targeted at gang activities and boost the sentences available for violations of these laws.</i>	23
May 13	<u>Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2005</u> <i>President Bush proclaims May 15, 2005, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the week of May 15, 2005 as Police Week.</i>	24

June 20	Information Memorandum for the President re: Federal Sentencing Guidelines <i>This memorandum briefs the President on recent developments in Federal sentencing. In January, the Supreme Court held in United States v. Booker that the Sentencing Guidelines are no longer mandatory, but are advisory only. In the five months that followed, DOJ observed a trend toward increasing disparity in sentencing and a drift toward lighter sentences. The memorandum informed the President of the Attorney General's plan to soon announce that the Department is ready to move forward on working with Congress, the judiciary, and other stakeholders to restore a mandatory-guidelines system to the extent that the Constitution permits.</i>	25
Sep. 30	<u>National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2005</u> <i>The President proclaims October 2005, as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urges all Americans to reach out to help victims of domestic violence and help to make ending domestic violence a national priority.</i>	26
Nov. 23	<u>National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2005</u> <i>The President proclaims December 2005 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month and encourages all Americans to help keep our Nation's roadways safe by making responsible decisions and taking appropriate measures to prevent drunk and drugged driving.</i>	27
<u>2006</u>		
Jan. 5	<u>President Signs H.R. 3402, the "Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005"</u> <i>The President signs H.R. 3042, which reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act for FY 2007-2011, makes amendments to criminal and immigration law, and consolidates major law enforcement grant programs and authorizes appropriations for the Department of Justice for FY's 2006-2009.</i>	28
Mar. 29	<u>National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2006</u> <i>President Bush proclaims April 2006, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and encourages all citizens to protect children and help build strong communities where individuals, families, and children are valued and supported.</i>	29
Apr. 21	<u>National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2006</u> <i>President Bush proclaims the week of April 23, 2006, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week and encourages all Americans to promote awareness of victims' rights and advance this important cause.</i>	30
May 10	<u>Executive Order: Strengthening Federal Efforts to Protect Against Identity Theft</u> <u>President Bush Meets with Victims of Identity Theft</u> <u>Fact Sheet: The President's Identity Theft Task Force</u> <i>President Bush met with victims of identify theft in the Roosevelt room and signed an Executive Order establishing the "Identity Theft Task Force" to ensure that the 13 governmental agencies involved with identity theft have a</i>	31

	<i>well-coordinated strategy to help victims and put those who commit the theft behind bars.</i>	
May 11	<u>Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2006</u> <i>President Bush proclaims May 15, 2006, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the week of May 14, 2006 as Police Week.</i>	1
July 19	<u>Information Memorandum for The President re: Civil Rights Follow-Up</u> <i>The memorandum updates the President on several issues that he had recently inquired about, including mentoring children of prisoners and recidivism reducing programs. The memo outlined the President's 2003 proposal of a \$450 million initiative to reach one million disadvantaged junior high school students and children of prisoners in a three-year period. The memo also describes the success of the President's recidivism programs that provide job placement assistance, transitional housing, and mental and substance abuse treatment to ex-offenders.</i>	2
July 21	<u>President Applauds Senate for Approving Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006</u> <i>President Bush applauds the Senate for passing the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, and urges the House to pass the bill.</i>	3
July 27	<u>President Signs H.R. 4472, the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006</u> <u>Fact Sheet: The Adam Walsh Child Protection And Safety Act Of 2006</u> <i>President Bush signs H.R. 4472, an act which ensures appropriate sentencing for sex offenders and provides local law enforcement officials with the tools they need to track those who prey upon children.</i>	4
Sep. 29	<u>National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2006</u> <i>The President proclaims October 2006 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urges all Americans to reach out to victims and help end domestic violence.</i>	5
Oct. 10	<u>President Bush Participates in Panel on School Safety</u> <u>Fact Sheet: Conference on School Safety</u> <i>In the wake of tragic school shootings in Colorado, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania, and threats of violence in many other States, President Bush convened a meeting of leading experts and stakeholders to discuss how Federal, State, and local governments can work together with schools, communities, and families to help ensure our schools are safe places for students to learn. The President participated as a panelist in the closing discussion entitled "Working Together To Make Our Schools Safe."</i>	6
<u>2007</u>		
Feb. 2	<u>National Consumer Protection Week, 2007</u> <i>The President proclaims the week of February 4, 2007, as National Consumer Protection Week and calls upon Government officials, industry leaders, and consumer advocates to provide citizens with information about how they can prevent fraud and identity theft, and encourages all citizens to be responsible consumers and take an active role in protecting their personal information.</i>	7
Mar. 27	<u>National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2007</u>	8

	<i>President Bush proclaims April 2007, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and encourages all citizens to help protect our children and work to create strong, healthy communities.</i>	
Apr. 16	<u>President Bush Shocked, Saddened by Shootings at Virginia Tech</u> <i>President Bush issues a statement following the shooting at Virginia Tech University.</i>	9
Apr. 17	<u>President Bush Offers Condolences at Virginia Tech Memorial Convocation</u> <u>Honoring the Victims of the Tragedy at Virginia Tech-A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America</u>	10
Apr. 17	Information Memorandum to the President re: Virginia Tech Shootings <i>This memorandum briefs the President on his Administration's response to the Virginia Tech shootings. The memorandum describes DOJ's deployment of FBI and ATF agents to the scene, as well as outreach done by DOJ victims assistance officials. The memo further describes Project Safe Neighborhoods, a nationwide program to reduce gun crime, and Project Child Safe, a nationwide to ensure that locks are available for every handgun in America—two of the President's key policy initiatives aimed at reducing gun violence.</i>	11
Apr. 20	<u>National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2007</u> <i>President Bush proclaims the week of April 22, 2007, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week and encourages all Americans to help raise awareness and promote the cause of victims' rights in their communities.</i>	12
Apr. 21	<u>President Bush Honors Victims of Virginia Tech Tragedy at White House Correspondents Dinner</u>	13
May 2	Memorandum for the President re: Hate Crimes <i>This memorandum presents to the President the question of whether or not his Administration should threaten to veto H.R. 1592, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007. The President during his 2000 campaign had announced support for Senator Hatch's version of a hate crimes bill, but not Senator Kennedy's version. H.R. 1592 was molded after Senator Kennedy's bill and differed significantly from Senator Hatch's version. The President's advisors, believing that there were enough votes in the House to sustain the veto, recommended to the President that he threaten to veto the bill.</i>	14
May 3	<u>Statement of Administration Policy-H.R. 1592 - Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act 2007</u> <i>This Statement of Administration Policy threatens to veto H.R. 1592, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act 2007. The SAP dismisses the bill, which would federalize the prosecution of certain violent crime, as unnecessary and constitutionally questionable.</i>	15
May 11	<u>Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2007</u> <i>President Bush proclaims May 15, 2007, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the week of May 13, 2007 as Police Week.</i>	16
May 14	Information Memorandum for the President re: Initiative for Safer Communities	17

	<i>This memorandum briefs the President on the results of the Attorney General's Initiative for Safer Communities, an initiative to understand the cause of a recent uptick in violent crime. Under the initiative, DOJ dispatched officials to 18 metropolitan areas to study local crime rates with regional law enforcement officials and community stakeholders. The visits did not reveal a national cause, but they did identify several common themes, including an increase in youth violence, an increase in loosely organized gangs, and an increase in the illegal use of firearms, with weapons illegally acquired in a growing number of instances. The Attorney General was to announce these results on May 15 along with a number of new Federal law enforcement efforts.</i>	
May 29	<i>Memorandum for the President re: Administration Crime Bill</i> <i>This memorandum briefs the President on a DOJ drafted anti-crime bill. The bill, entitled the Violent Crime and Anti-Terrorism Act of 2007, was comprised of six titles: (1) violent crime prevention and enforcement, (2) prevention of on-online child exploitation, (3) the Proceeds of Crime Act, (4) drug trafficking enforcement, (5) crime victims' rights, and (6) counter-terrorism and national security. Senator Cornyn introduced the bill (S. 1860) in the Senate and Rep. Lamar Smith introduced the bill (H.R. 3156) in the House.</i>	18
June 6	<i>Information Memorandum for the President re: Racial Disparities in Sentencing</i> <i>This memorandum responds to a request from the President for a report on evidence of racial disparities in criminal sentencing. The studies found no systematic evidence of discrimination in overall sentencing.</i>	19
June 13	<u>President's Statement on the Report to the President on Issues Raised by the Virginia Tech Tragedy</u> <i>In this statement, President Bush thanked Attorney General Gonzales and Secretaries Leavitt and Spellings for the report on issues raised by the Virginia Tech shootings that they submitted at his request. The President also stated that he looks forward to working with Congress on efforts to strengthen the instant criminal background check system.</i>	20
Oct. 1	<u>National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2007</u> <i>The President proclaims October 2007 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urges all Americans to reach out to those who have been abused and help educate people about the vital importance of ending domestic violence.</i>	21
Nov. 30	<u>National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2007</u> <i>The President proclaims December 2007 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month and urges all Americans to make responsible decisions and take appropriate measures to prevent drunk and drugged driving.</i>	22
2008		
Jan. 8	<u>President Bush Signs H.R. 2640-"NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007"</u> <i>The President signs H.R. 2640, which requires accurate information on</i>	23

	<i>individuals prohibited from possessing firearms to be transmitted by State and local government and Federal agencies to the Justice Department-administered National Instant Criminal Background Check System and provides incentives for facilitating electronic transmission of such information to NICS.</i>	
Jan. 27	Memorandum for the President re: Cocaine Sentencing <i>The memorandum briefs the President on the U.S. Sentencing Commission's decision to retroactively apply its reduction in penalties for crack-cocaine. Retroactive application would reduce sentences for as many as 19,500 prisoners by an average of about 27 months. DOJ, who believes the differential is justified, strongly opposed retroactive application. Consequently, the memorandum presents three options to the President for addressing the retroactivity: (1) defer to the Sentencing Commission's decision, (2) ask Congress to block retroactive application, (3) offer to negotiate a broader fix of the differential in penalties for crack v. powder cocaine in exchange for Congress blocking retroactive application. The Administration pursued option three, however, Congress was unreceptive.</i>	24
March 28	Information Memorandum for the President re: Anti-Snitching Culture and Witness Intimidation <i>This memorandum responds to a request by the President to the Attorney General for information on the "anti-snitching" culture. The memo summarizes some of the insights generated at a recent Police Executive Research Forum conference, as well as an assessment by various law enforcement agencies of the nature and extent of this movement, plus a summary of some efforts to combat the "anti-snitch" message.</i>	25
Apr. 1	<u>National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2008</u> <i>President Bush proclaims April 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and encourages all citizens to help protect our children from abuse and neglect and to take an active role in creating safe communities.</i>	26
Apr. 9	<u>President Bush Signs H.R. 1593, the Second Chance Act of 2007</u> <u>Fact Sheet: President Bush/Signs Second Chance Act of 2007</u> <i>The President signs H.R. 1593, which will help transform lives and build safer communities by helping prisoners who are returning to society break cycles of crime and start new lives.</i>	27
Apr. 11	<u>National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2008</u> <i>President Bush proclaims the week of April 13, 2008, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week and encourages all Americans to promote awareness of victims' rights and advance this important cause.</i>	28
Apr. 15	<u>Statement by the President and Mrs. Bush</u> <i>The President and Mrs. Bush commemorate the one year anniversary of the Virginia Tech shooting.</i>	29
May 9	<u>Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2008</u> <i>President Bush proclaims May 15, 2008, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the week of May 11, 2007 as Police Week.</i>	30
Oct. 1	<u>National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2008</u> <i>The President proclaims October 2008 as National Domestic Violence</i>	31

	<i>Awareness Month and urges all Americans to reach out to victims of domestic violence and take action to make ending domestic violence a national priority.</i>	
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A Blueprint For New Beginnings

9. Combat Crime and Drug Abuse

February 28, 2001

The rate of serious crime reported by State and local law enforcement agencies has dropped significantly in recent years. The 1999 Crime Index is down 19 percent from 1992, the eighth consecutive annual decline. Violent crimes, including murders and rapes, have fallen to the lowest level in two decades. Preliminary figures for the first six months of 2000 show a further decline in the crime rate. This success can be attributed to a number of factors, including the strong economy, demographic changes, and Federal aid to the front-line State and local police departments.

Drug abuse imposes a variety of costs on the Nation. These costs include cash costs for the investigation and prosecution of drug-related crimes and the incarceration and treatment of drug offenders, property losses of crime victims and insurance companies, and lost earnings due to illness and premature death. The total costs associated with drug abuse are estimated to exceed \$100 billion annually. This figure does not capture the human costs associated with drug abuse — wasted opportunities, families torn apart, and lives lost.

Drug abuse in the United States is down from 20 years ago, but it remains unacceptably high. According to the most recent National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA), 6.7 percent of the population 12 years or older reported using an illicit drug in the past month, up from 5.8 percent in 1992.

Among teenagers, the rate of illegal drug abuse is higher than in the population in general. According to the NHSDA, approximately nine percent of youths age 12 — 17 were current users of illegal drugs in 1999. That figure is down 21 percent since 1997, but substantially higher than the 5.3 percent found by the NHSDA in 1992. The number of young adults, ages 18 — 25, who have used drugs in the past month continues to rise, increasing from 14.7 percent in 1997 to 18.8 percent in 1999, nearly half again as much as the 13.1 percent rate in 1992.

In addition to the threats posed by marijuana and other traditional drugs such as cocaine and heroin, today's children must deal with a wave of new drugs that are especially dangerous. Synthetic "club drugs" such as Ecstasy, or MDMA, have become popular at clubs and raves. Among 12th-graders surveyed by Department of Health and Human Services' Monitoring the Future Study, 2000, 8.2 percent report using Ecstasy in the past year, compared to 5.6 percent in 1999. Eighth- and 10th-graders also reported significant increases in Ecstasy use in the past year.

The President's Plan of Action

The 2002 Budget addresses the social and economic costs of crime and drug abuse. Among other things, the initiatives, highlights of which are described below, will include expanding the range of community groups and parents who will engage in local drug prevention efforts, increasing drug treatment, taking steps to improve the safety of our schools, and enhancing the security of our borders.

In 2001, the Federal Government will spend more than \$18 billion on drug control activities. This is in addition to State and local government expenditures of equal, if not greater, amounts. Despite the extraordinary efforts of law enforcement, the military, teachers, medical professionals, treatment workers, and others, drug abuse is unacceptably high. While we show improvement in eliminating some of the harmful effects of drug abuse, a more comprehensive and accountable approach is needed.

As part of the development of the next National Drug Control Strategy, the Administration will review current approaches, with the goal of distinguishing areas that are yielding sufficient results from those areas that are not. In particular, the review will look closely at the relative emphasis on demand reduction and supply reduction activities, as well as the amounts invested in individual programs by the Federal Government. The Administration intends to develop a drug control strategy that adequately addresses the problem, and is evidence-based, cost effective, and affordable.

Teaching Our Children to Avoid the Trap of Drugs: The Administration will empower parents, and community and faith-based groups to fight drugs. A 1997 General Accounting Office study found that community coalitions, particularly those that implement a comprehensive approach that targets multiple aspects of youths' lives, represent a

promising prevention method to prevent combat drug abuse by teenagers. The 2002 Budget will include \$50 million, \$10 million more than in 2001, for the Drug Free Communities Support Program to support the President's initiative. The budget also plans for larger increases in subsequent years. The increase will help reach the children in communities not benefiting from the current program, will encourage the development of community anti-drug coalitions in under-served areas, and assist coalitions, including faith leaders, that work together to reduce drug abuse in their communities. The 2002 Budget also includes \$5 million in matching funds to mobilize a Parent Drug Corps to train parents in how to fight drug abuse.

Upgrading the Drug Free Workplace Program: The Drug Free Workplace Program gives grants to organizations that help small businesses develop employee education programs and company drug policies. To date, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has not been able to meet the demand for assistance from intermediary partners; in 1999 SBA received 160 grant applications from intermediaries, but issued only 16 grants. To help meet this need, the President's Budget includes \$5 million and proposes to spend \$25 million over the next five years.

Closing the Treatment Gap and Increasing Support for Effective Treatment: The budget provides assistance to those who have become dependent on drugs and helps them rebuild their lives and become productive members of the community. While the Administration proposes a variety of treatment initiatives, there are two main concerns

- the approaches must be evidence-based, and there must be real accountability for recipients.

The Administration's treatment-related initiatives include: increased funding for the National Institute on Drug Abuse's budget as part of the President's initiative to complete the doubling of the budget for the National Institutes of Health by 2003; providing \$111 million of additional funding to increase access to substance abuse treatment and help to close the treatment gap, the difference between the number of individuals who would benefit from drug treatment and the number who receive it, by increasing funds for treatment-related programs; and targeting treatment to adolescents, a group identified by the Office of National Drug Control Policy as significantly underserved by existing treatment programs.

As part of the drug treatment initiative, the budget proposes \$74 million (\$11 million more than in 2001) for the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program, which provides formula grants supporting drug and alcohol treatment in State and local correctional facilities. Faith-based treatment programs will be eligible to compete for these funds.

The Administration will promote drug-free Federal prisons through on-going drug testing of all prisoners and treatment of eligible inmates. Currently, 100 percent of all eligible Federal inmates are enrolled in intensive drug treatment programs. Probationers and parolees are required to pass drug tests and receive treatment as a condition of remaining on the street.

Drug courts are an effective and cost efficient way to help non-violent drug offenders commit to a rigorous drug treatment program in lieu of prison. By leveraging the coercive power of the criminal justice system, drug courts can alter the behavior of non-violent, low-level drug offenders through a combination of judicial supervision, case management, mandatory drug testing, and treatment to ensure abstinence from drugs, and escalating sanctions. The Department of Justice will support local drug courts that combine drug testing with effective monitoring at the historically high 2001 level of \$50 million.

Leading and Working with Our Foreign Allies Against Drugs: The drug cartels are among the most powerful criminal groups ever to operate on American soil. No effort to stop these powerful organizations can succeed without the ability to strike at the cartel's leadership and reach criminal activity that recognizes no national boundaries. These powerful criminal organizations also pose a threat to our democratic allies throughout the Western Hemisphere. Left unchecked, this violence and widespread corruption could seriously undermine the rule of law in Mexico and Colombia.

The 2002 Budget requests more than \$500 million in new funding to maintain programs, provided in the 2000 emergency supplemental to support Plan Colombia. Any successful counterdrug strategy in the region must include funding to bring greater economic and political stability to the region and a peaceful resolution to Colombia's internal conflict.

The Administration is committed to full funding of the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act. Through 2001, Congress has appropriated \$1.6 billion. The 2002 Budget provides an additional \$278 million to upgrade drug interdiction efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard and Customs Service. It provides funds for the acquisition, construction, and improvement of ships, planes, and equipment to enhance counternarcotics efforts in both source nations as well as the drug transit zone.

Improving Anti-Drug Technology: The Administration requests additional funding to provide new technology to improve interdiction and coordination among law enforcement. The 2002 Budget includes \$40 million for the Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center, an increase of \$4 million over 2001, to provide state-of-the-art tools to enhance the capabilities of State and local law enforcement agencies for counterdrug missions.

Bolstering Southwest Border Prosecutorial Resources: Thousands of Federal drug arrests occurring near the Southwest border are referred to county prosecutors because the quantity of drugs seized is too small to meet the threshold set by local U.S. Attorneys for Federal prosecution. The 2002 Budget provides an additional \$50 million to assist counties near the Southwest border with the costs of prosecuting and detaining these referrals. U.S. Attorneys will also be directed to revise drug seizure thresholds warranting Federal prosecution, thereby increasing Federal drug trafficking prosecutions. Grants will be administered by the Department of Justice and awarded based on Southwest border county caseloads for processing, detaining, and prosecuting drug and alien cases referred from Federal arrests.

Continuing Methamphetamine Laboratory Cleanup: The production and use of methamphetamine (meth) have been on the rise over the past few years, and the number of meth laboratories has increased dramatically across the country. Meth lab enforcement and clean-up efforts are complicated by the presence of hazardous materials produced during the manufacturing process. Cleaning up these labs is a costly and risky business. State and local law enforcement agencies can be overwhelmed by the need to confront even one large laboratory. As meth dealers and drug organizations have targeted rural communities, many of the local law enforcement agencies have neither the expertise nor the resources to deal with this serious threat. The 2002 Budget includes \$20 million to assist State and local law enforcement agencies with the costs associated with meth cleanup, along with \$28 million to aid meth enforcement.

Incarcerating the Most Dangerous Drug Offenders: The budget includes \$821 million for prison construction and placing newly-constructed Federal prisons into service and for contract bed space to prevent dangerous levels of overcrowding in Federal prisons. In addition, the budget includes \$5 million to establish a faith-based, prison pre-release pilot program. The pilot will be hosted at four Federal prisons that are geographically diverse, encompass varying levels of security, and include both male and female inmate populations. The goal of the initiative is to reduce the recidivism rate among ex-offenders. The budget also includes \$140 million to support additional detention beds to keep pace with the growth in the criminal and alien detainee population.

Establishing Project Sentry and Project Child Safe: The budget proposes a new Federal-State partnership by creating Safe Schools Task Forces across the country to coordinate better prosecutorial resources devoted to promoting school safety through appropriate firearms prosecutions. Project Sentry will devote \$9 million annually to fund a dedicated juvenile gun prosecutor in each of the 94 U.S. Attorneys offices around the country. The State and local partnerships will be funded by \$20 million in existing Department of Justice State and local Safe School grants.

Another partnership program will ensure that child safety locks are available for every handgun in America by providing \$75 million annually in Federal matching funds through the Department of Justice. States and local governments will receive \$65 million annually to assist the purchase and distribution of safety locks. The remaining \$10 million will go to administrative costs and advertising, including a national toll-free telephone line, to make sure all parents are aware of the program.

Reallocating Grant Funding to Higher Priorities: The Administration seeks to finance some of the increases discussed above through selected reductions to State and local law enforcement grant programs. To a great degree, States and localities have proved themselves able to pursue vigorous law enforcement agendas without relying on Federal grant funding. For every dollar the Federal Government spends on criminal justice, State and local governments spend almost six, and Federal assistance makes up less than five percent of State and local law enforcement spending. For example, among the programs proposed for reduction are the State Prison Grant

program, which has largely accomplished its goal of encouraging States to toughen their "truth in sentencing" laws; and non-formula Byrne grants, most of which are not awarded on a competitive basis, due to congressional earmarks.

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National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

March 28, 2001

Every child deserves to live in a safe, permanent, and caring family. Regrettably, abuse and neglect continue to threaten the well-being of many young Americans. Each year, more than 800,000 confirmed incidents of maltreatment of children and more than 1,000 abuse-related child fatalities plague our country. We can, and must, do more to fight these tragedies and to protect our children from harm.

Prevention remains the best defense for our children. State Community-Based Family Resource and Support programs sponsor activities promoting public awareness about child abuse and information on how to stop it. Additional initiatives offer education and training to mothers, fathers, and other caretakers. Collaboration among schools, government agencies, faith-based organizations, businesses, community groups, and law enforcement play an important role in helping such efforts to succeed.

During the month of April, let our Nation and her people reaffirm the commitment to making a positive difference in ending child abuse and neglect. Each individual needs to help. Organize or join a community group that offers information or assistance to parents and families. Be vigilant for signs of abuse exhibited by young people in your community. Encourage trust in and support for law enforcement agencies. By speaking out against child abuse and neglect and cultivating an environment that nurtures and strengthens families, we can give boys and girls the safe, stable, and loving homes they need. They will be able to enter the classroom each day ready to learn, with improved self-esteem. They will be encouraged to reach their full potential as individuals and as members of our society.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2001, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I encourage all Americans to join in the vital task of protecting young people from harm, and I commend the many dedicated parents, educators, social workers, and other concerned citizens who lead by example in doing right by our children.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

April 10, 2001

Every day, Americans are making progress both in the fight against crime and in the effort to ensure fair and compassionate treatment of victims and their families. Dedicated volunteers, health care professionals, counselors, and law enforcement personnel in communities large and small are raising the public's awareness that victims have important rights.

Decreasing crime rates are encouraging, but we are far from winning the war against crime. According to the most recent National Crime Victimization Survey, nearly 29 million people were victimized by crime in 1999, including more than 7 million victims of violent crime. Americans cannot afford to be complacent. All of us must continue efforts to stop crime and to improve services for those harmed by crime.

The voices of our Nation's victims continue to have a powerful effect in changing laws, policies, and attitudes to promote victims' rights and services. They encourage every person in America to take a stand and to lend their support. My Administration is committed to improving public safety and to providing justice for all who have been victimized. We will fight for public policies that prevent crimes. We will steadfastly support those responsible for enforcing the laws and protecting the innocent. And we will attempt to see that offenders, not victims, pay the high cost of crime.

Our Nation's commitment to crime victim assistance grows stronger every year, with thousands of programs in place to provide help and hope. My Administration is committed to expanding opportunities for faith-based and charitable organizations dedicated to serving persons in need. Crime victims often turn to faith-based organizations for assistance and support during times of crisis, and religious leaders and communities are vital links in our national network of victim services.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The campaign to win rights for victims parallels other grassroots movements in our Nation's history. These crusades most frequently began as small local movements led by groups of passionate individuals who spoke out in protest when they saw inequities. During this week, let us join in the effort to establish fair legal rights and services for crime victims.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 22 through 28, 2001, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I urge all Americans to share the burden of reducing crime in their communities and to follow the example of those who have helped establish rights and improve services for victims.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

May 9, 2001

Each day, law enforcement officers encounter grave risk to protect the rights and freedoms we enjoy as Americans. Their commitment and sacrifice make our streets safer, our neighbor--hoods stronger, and our families more secure. Police Week provides an opportunity to recognize the selfless dedication of the brave men and women who devote their lives to protecting and serving our communities.

This Nation owes a considerable debt of gratitude to all law enforcement officers who protect the lives and property of their fellow Americans. From patrolling our highways, to investigating crime, to protecting victims' rights, these committed professionals make a valuable difference in our communities. We look to them to uphold the principle that no one is beyond the protection or reach of the law. These men and women, through their patriotic service and dedicated effort, have earned our gratitude and respect.

We pause during Police Week, and in particular on Peace Officers' Memorial Day, to honor those officers who made the ultimate sacrifice while performing their sworn duty. I urge all Americans to use this occasion to pay tribute to these fallen heroes by recalling their devotion, celebrating their lives, and honoring their service.

Tragically, making America safer often requires great sacrifice. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Fund, 150 law enforcement officers lost their lives in the line of duty in 2000. Although we can never repay the debt we owe these valiant officers and their families, we pay tribute to their memory by committing ourselves to being law-abiding citizens, working to lower crime in our communities, and investing time and love in our Nation's young people.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2001, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and May 13 through May 19, 2001, as Police Week. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call upon Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers' Memorial Day. I also encourage all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes on that day.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

Remarks by the President on Project Safe Neighborhoods

Pennsylvania Convention Center

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

May 14, 2001

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. You're still the man, Mr. Mayor. (Laughter.) It's an honor to be introduced by the Mayor. One of the reasons why I asked him to sit next to Laura during my State of the Union address -- or State of the Budget address, I guess -- is because of the fantastic work the Mayor has done with faith-based programs in Philadelphia.

He understands that government is limited. We can spend money; but what government cannot do is put hope into hearts of our fellow citizens. And, Mr. Mayor, I appreciate your leadership and I'm honored that you would welcome me to this great city. I was thinking coming in that, had things worked out differently, Philadelphia could have been the nation's capital. And I would have been calling you, neighbor. And we would have had a baseball team in the nation's capital and it would have been a pretty good one, too. (Laughter.)

I'm honored to be traveling with the Attorney General, who I'll introduce in a minute. It's a great honor to be with the Senior Senator from the state of Pennsylvania -- that's Arlen Specter; as well as the Junior Senator, Rick Santorum. Thank you both for being here. (Applause.)

And we've got members of the congressional delegation here, as well: Weldon, Hoeffel and Toomey. I want to thank you guys for coming. We're flying back on Air Force One; I look forward to listening to what you need to tell me. I probably won't do it but, nevertheless, I look forward to listening. (Laughter.)

I'm honored to be here with the Lieutenant Governor and the Attorney General of the great state of Pennsylvania. I'm sorry my close friend, the Governor, is not here, but I understand he's trying to drum up some business for the state of Pennsylvania, so he's got an excused absence.

It's such an honor to be here with leaders of the National Law Organization, such as my friend, Gil Gallegos, from the state of New Mexico, who is the President of the Fraternal Order of Police. Thank you for being here, Gil. As well as the other leaders.

And, most importantly, it's an honor to be here with the men and women who wear the blue, and I want to thank you for your service to your community and to your nation. (Applause.)

And like the Mayor, I congratulate those officers who were promoted to corporal. It's a well-deserved honor, and it's fitting that it come on National Police Week. I want to express my appreciation to all in this city who are involved with law enforcement, and thank you for your skill and your dedication and, most importantly, your bravery on behalf of your fellow citizens.

During the last several years, violent crime in America has been decreasing. And all Americans are grateful. Between 1989 and 1999, the violent crime rate dropped 20 percent. And that's a huge accomplishment. It really is. But, unfortunately, American society is still far too violent. The violent crime rate in the United States remains among the highest in the industrialized world.

Nationally, there were 12,658 murders in 1999, two-thirds of which were shooting deaths. And for every fatal shooting, there were roughly three non-fatal shootings. And, folks, this is unacceptable in America. It's just unacceptable. And we're going to do something about it.

Like most major urban centers -- cities -- in America, Philadelphia suffered from a stunning rise in violent crime. However, Philadelphia, as the Mayor mentioned, has made great progress. For example, in 1990, there were 500 murders; last year there were 319. And the Mayor deserves a lot of credit; so does the Police Commissioner and the policemen and women of Philadelphia. And for that, we're incredibly grateful. And we're grateful for programs such as Operation Sunrise and Safe and Sound and Youth Violence Reduction Project, which, Mr. Mayor, is making your city more safe and more secure for all of the citizens.

But gun violence is still a serious problem. Three out of four murder victims in this city are shot to death with handguns. Among young victims, that figure rises to almost nine out of 10. In America today, a teenager is more likely to die from a gunshot than from all natural causes of death combined. These details have caused too many families to bury the next generation. And for all our children's sake, this nation must reclaim our neighborhoods and our streets.

We need a national strategy to assure that every community is attacking gun violence with focus and intensity. I'm here today to announce a national initiative to help cities like Philadelphia fight gun violence. The program I propose we call Project Safe Neighborhoods will establish a network of law enforcement and community initiatives targeted at gun violence. I will involve -- it will involve an unprecedented partnership between all levels of government. It will increase accountability within our systems. And it will send an unmistakable message: if you use a gun illegally, you will do hard time.

This nation must enforce the gun laws which exist on the books. Project Safe Neighborhoods incorporates and builds upon the success of existing programs. In Richmond, Virginia, for example, during the first year of what's called Project Exile, homicides were reduced by 40 percent; and armed robberies were reduced by 30 percent, in the first year alone. And thanks to Boston's Operation Cease-fire, in almost two years, no one under the age of 17 was shot.

These are tremendous success stories, and ones that are worth duplicating around our nation. My administration is proposing to devote more than \$550 million on Project Safe Neighborhoods over the next two years. (Applause.) The funding will be used to hire new federal and state prosecutors, to support investigators, to provide training and develop and promote community outreach efforts. All newly appointed United States Attorneys will be directed to certify to the Attorney General that the new comprehensive gun violence program has been implemented in their districts. (Applause.)

We're going to reduce gun violence in America, and those who commit crimes with guns will find a determined adversary in my administration. Domestic tranquility is a phrase made famous in this city. Project Safe Neighborhoods is one step, and an important step, to making that a reality.

And now to explain the program is a fine American, a great Attorney General, John Ashcroft. (Applause.)

###

Remarks by President Bush on McVeigh Execution

June 11, 2001

THE PRESIDENT: This morning, the United States of America carried out the severest sentence for the gravest of crimes. The victims of the Oklahoma City bombing have been given not vengeance, but justice. And one young man met the fate he chose for himself six years ago.

For the survivors of the crime and for the families of the dead, the pain goes on. Final punishment of the guilty cannot alone bring peace to the innocent. It cannot recover the loss or balance the scales, and it is not meant to do so. Today, every living person who was hurt by the evil done in Oklahoma City can rest in the knowledge that there has been a reckoning. At every point, from the morning of April 19, 1995 to this hour, we have seen the good that overcomes evil.

We saw it in the rescuers who saved and suffered with the victims. We have seen it in a community that has grieved and held close the memory of the lost. We have seen it in the work of detectives, marshal, and police. And we've seen it in the courts. Due process ruled. The case was proved. The verdict was calmly reached. And the rights of the accused were protected and observed to the full and to the end.

Under the laws of our country, the matter is concluded. Life and history bring tragedies, and often they cannot be explained. But they can be redeemed. They are redeemed by dispensing justice, though eternal justice is not ours to deliver. By remembering those who grieve, including Timothy McVeigh's mother, father and sisters, and by trusting in purposes greater than our own, may God in his mercy grant peace to all; to the lives that were taken six years ago, to the lives that go on, and to the life that ended today.

###

President Proclaims National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

October 2, 2001

The social blight of domestic violence has continued to burden America into the 21st Century. Our homes should be places of safety and comfort. Tragically, domestic violence can and does turn many homes into places of torment. The grim facts speak for themselves: almost one-third of American women murdered each year are killed by their current or former partners, usually a husband. Approximately 1 million women annually report being stalked. And many children suffer or witness abuse in their homes, which can sadly spawn legacies of violence in families across America.

Domestic violence spills over into schools and places of work; and it affects people from every walk of life. Though abuse may occur in the seclusion of a private residence, its effects scar the face of our Nation.

In the United States, we have strict laws intended to hold domestic abusers accountable for their vile conduct by bringing them to justice, but laws alone are not enough. A comprehensive, coordinated approach must shape our strategy to reduce domestic violence. Accordingly, the Federal Government is partnering with States, local communities, and other entities to implement tough and effective mechanisms to respond to reports of domestic violence.

These efforts include specialized units in police departments, and prosecutors offices that work with local victims' advocates to make the criminal justice system more responsive to victims and more retributive to their abusers. Jurisdictions throughout the country now provide legal assistance to ensure that when victims try to escape abuse, they can obtain legal help from attorneys who understand the dynamics of domestic violence. Law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, and service providers are working to improve their responses to the often hidden victims of elder abuse and violence against women with disabilities. Moreover, thousands of communities now have shelters and emergency services for abused women and their children.

As a Nation, we must prioritize addressing the problem of domestic violence in our communities every day of the year. National Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides us with a special opportunity to emphasize that domestic violence is a crime, to warn abusers that they will be prosecuted, and to offer victims more aid and support. We can and must radically reduce and work to eliminate this scourge from our land. To succeed, this effort must be echoed by officials from every segment of the criminal justice system, Federal, State, and local. Community leaders, health care professionals, teachers, employers, friends, and neighbors all will play an important role in eradicating domestic violence.

As we observe National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I call on all Americans to commit to preventing domestic violence and to assist those who suffer from it. These collective efforts will contribute to peace in our homes, schools, places of work, and communities and will help ensure the future safety of countless children and adults.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2001, as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to learn more about this terrible problem and to take positive action in protecting communities and families from its devastating effects.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

November 30, 2001

Each December we turn our attention to the problem of drunk driving by observing National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. Though the holidays bring joy in celebrations with family and friends, they also bring a tragic increase in the incidence of impaired driving. This season, I ask each American to avoid driving while they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs, to help stop others from driving in an impaired condition, and to increase community awareness about these issues.

Despite many efforts by States, communities, and citizen groups to stop drunk and drugged driving, many Americans mistakenly continue to view impaired driving as acceptable conduct. After years of gradual improvement, fatalities in alcohol-related crashes rose by 4 percent from 1999 to 2000. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that last year alcohol was involved in 40 percent of fatal crashes and in 8 percent of all crashes.

Every person should reaffirm his or her personal responsibility to drive free of the influence of alcohol or drugs and to prevent others from driving under the influence of them. We must promote practices such as designating a sober driver, stopping impaired family members and friends from getting behind the wheel, reporting impaired drivers to law enforcement officials, and teaching our young people safe, alcohol- and drug-free driving behavior.

We should also promote coordinated public policies and citizen campaigns against drunk and drugged driving in our communities. One example is the Department of Transportation's You Drink & Drive, You Lose campaign. This national coalition of community and law enforcement organizations will increase public awareness of the hazards of impaired driving. Their message warns of the criminal penalties for impaired driving, including imprisonment and the loss of license, vehicle, time from work, and money in fines and court costs.

As we celebrate the joyous holiday season, we can help save lives by preventing impaired driving. In order to ensure the safety of our roads for all travelers, we must continue to fight drunk and drugged driving throughout the year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 2001 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. I call upon State and community leaders to join the National Holiday Lifesavers Mobilization, sponsored by the You Drink & Drive, You Lose campaign, on December 21-23, 2001. I also urge all Americans to remember the hazards of impaired driving and to become involved in fighting this dangerous problem.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

COPY
FROM ORM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

POLICY TIME – DOMESTIC

Wednesday, March 20, 2002
4:35 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.
Oval Office
Margaret Spellings

I. PURPOSE

To update you on the status of the proposed constitutional amendment to protect crime victims' rights, which will be introduced soon by Senators Kyl and Feinstein.

To update you regarding the Department of Justice's testimony on sentencing guidelines for crack and powder cocaine.

II. BACKGROUND

Victims' Rights Amendment: Senators Kyl and Feinstein have worked with the Department of Justice to draft a constitutional amendment that would provide victims of "violent crime" the following rights in Federal or state courts: (1) to reasonable and timely notice of any public proceeding involving the crime or the release or escape of the accused; (2) not to be excluded from such public proceedings; (3) in a reasonable manner, to be heard at the public release, plea, sentencing, pardon, and commutation proceedings; and (4) to have decisions that duly consider their safety, just and timely claims to restitution from the offender, and interests in avoiding unreasonable delay.

The Department of Justice has proposed holding a White House event during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 21-27, at which time you could endorse this proposed amendment.

Sentencing Guidelines: Last December, Senators Hatch and Leahy directed the United States Sentencing Commission to provide guidance as the Congress "evaluate[s] the appropriateness of the penalty differential between powder and crack cocaine." The Commission is expected to recommend a reduction in crack penalties. A pending bill drafted by Senators Hatch and Sessions would decrease penalties for crack and increase penalties for powder. The Deputy Attorney General has testified before the Commission and conveyed the Administration's position that we do not support a reduction in penalties for crack, but that in order to address the differential we would support an increase in penalties for powder cocaine.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Attorney General John Ashcroft
Andrew Card, Chief of Staff
Joshua Bolten, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
Karen Hughes, Counselor
Karl Rove, Senior Advisor
Nicholas Calio, Director, Legislative Affairs
Alberto Gonzales, Counsel
Ari Fleischer, Press Secretary
Margaret Spellings, Director, Domestic Policy
Jay Lefkowitz, Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Dean McGrath, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Vice President
Viet Dinh, Assistant Attorney General for Legal Policy

IV. PRESS PLAN

Closed

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Staff briefing

VI. REMARKS

None

VII. ATTACHMENTS

None

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National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

April 1, 2002

Every child deserves to be cared for by parents who provide love, protection, and nurturing. Safe and healthy childhoods help produce confident and successful adults. When parents are unable to meet their responsibilities, the consequences are tragic for their children and for society. Nationwide, reports show that more than 879,000 children are victims of child abuse and neglect and approximately 1,200 children die from maltreatment, many at the hands of those who are supposed to protect them.

Children who are abused and neglected often carry the effects of their experiences into adulthood. They are much more likely to experience problems with substance abuse, depression, learning disabilities, and to engage in criminal activities and violence against others, including abuse of their own children. The societal effects of child abuse include the need for increased child welfare services, special education resources, physical and emotional health care services, and juvenile justice facilities.

My Administration is committed to promoting effective policies that protect children from harm while strengthening and supporting families. Promoting healthy marriages, and teaching responsible fatherhood and motherhood, are key priorities of my Administration. Last year, I worked with the Congress to provide an additional \$70 million for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, which is helping States ensure children's safety, permanency, and well-being. This program is designed to strengthen families at risk and prevent abuse and neglect. My 2003 budget includes a substantial increase of \$130 million for this essential program.

The problem of child abuse requires a continuing national commitment, and we must remain vigilant in working to provide safety and security to each young person in our society.

Government alone cannot prevent child abuse. Child abuse prevention requires partnerships among Federal, State, and local governments, faith-based and community-based organizations, schools, law enforcement, and social service agencies. All of these organizations must work together with parents to protect children and help build healthy families and communities where children can reach their potential.

Every April, communities across the country join to raise public awareness about child abuse, to provide information about how to prevent it, and to assist families in need of support, recovery, and encouragement. During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and throughout the year, I encourage all Americans to find ways to cherish our children, and strengthen our families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2002 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by supporting the hard work of those who ensure our children's safety, and by playing an active role in creating a safer, healthier environment for our children's growth.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

President Calls for Crime Victims' Rights Amendment

Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

April 16, 2002

THE PRESIDENT: Well, John, thank you very much for inviting me to this beautiful room, and thank you all for coming today.

Justice is one of the defining commitments of America. In our war against terror, I constantly remind our fellow citizens we seek justice, not revenge. We seek justice for victims. We seek justice for their families. And for justice to prevail in our struggle for freedom, we must rout out terrorist threats wherever they exist. And that's exactly what this country is going to do. (Applause.) And while the war goes on, and while our fight for freedom continues, we will continue to work for justice at home, including justice for the victims of violent crime.

I appreciate John Ashcroft's leadership, his stand on principle, and his wise counsel during my time as President. I appreciate so very much Senator Feinstein and Senator Kyl carrying this cause that I'm here to support. I want to thank the Chairman, and I want to thank the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee for coming, as well, Senator Leahy and Senator Hatch. I want to thank all the members from the United States Congress for being here -- (applause) -- Congressmen Barrett, and Chabot, and Wicker.

I, too, want to thank John Walsh. I appreciate not only you standing up for victims, I appreciate you putting up pictures of the al Qaeda killers on the TV screen, to help America remain alert, to help this country understand that we're still in danger from attack. I want to thank you for being a good American, and I want to thank you for helping the cause. (Applause.)

I want to welcome the leaders of victim' rights groups from all around the country. I particularly want to thank and congratulate those who are award winners today.

As John mentioned, in the year 2000, Americans were victims of millions of crimes. Behind each of these numbers is a terrible trauma, a story of suffering and a story of lost security. Yet the needs of victims are often an afterthought in our criminal justice system. It's not just, it's not fair, and it must change. (Applause.) As we protect the rights of criminals, we must take equal care to protect the rights of the victims. (Applause.)

Many of the victims of crime have gotten a crash course in the complications and frustrations of our criminal justice system. One victim put it this way: "They explained the defendant's constitutional right to the nth degree. They couldn't do this and they couldn't do that because of his constitutional rights. And I wondered what mine were. And they told me, I hadn't got any." The guy sounded like he came from Texas. (Laughter.)

But too often, our system fails to inform victims about proceedings involving bail and pleas and sentencing and even about the trials themselves. Too often, the process fails to take the safety of victims into account when deciding whether to release dangerous offenders.

Too often, the financial losses of victims are ignored. And too often, victims are not allowed to address the court at sentencing and explain their suffering, or even to be present in the courtroom where their victimizers are being tried.

When our criminal justice systems treats victims as irrelevant bystanders, they are victimized for a second time. And because Americans are justifiably proud of our system and expect it to treat us fairly, the second violation of our rights can be traumatic. "It's like a huge slap," said one victim, "because you think the system will protect you. It's maddening and frightening."

Thirty years ago, a grass-roots movement began to stand up for the rights of victims. It resulted in domestic violence shelters, support groups for families of homicide victims, rape crisis centers. They exist in cities and neighborhoods all across America, because Americans care about their neighbors in need.

One good example is in John's home state of Missouri. It's called Aids -- Aid for Victims of Crime, Inc., in which volunteers provide counseling and court advocacy and other essential services to the victims of crime. Victims' rights groups are active every single day. There isn't a day that goes by that they're not involved in somebody's life, and they're especially important during times of disaster and crisis.

You know, when the bomber hit Oklahoma City, victims' rights groups were on the scene immediately thereafter to help. And the same happened after 9/11 in New York and Washington, Pennsylvania. Victims' rights groups were there, hundreds of counselors and chaplains and social workers, victims' service providers helped their fellow Americans deal with the unspeakable pain and suffering caused by the terrorist murders.

The Attorney General will shortly present awards to outstanding individuals and groups for their work on behalf of victims. I had the honor of meeting the winners, and I want to congratulate them publicly for loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. You've chosen to live out the words of Saint Paul: "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

And our nation struggles -- as our nation struggles to overcome the evil of September the 11th, your lives, the example you set, stand out as models of compassion and integrity.

The victims' rights movement has touched the conscience of this country, and our criminal justice system has begun to respond, treating victims with greater respect. The states, as well as the federal government, have passed legal protections for victims. However, those laws are insufficient to fully recognize the rights of crime victims.

Victims of violent crime have important rights that deserve protection in our Constitution. (Applause.) And so today, I announce my support for the bipartisan Crime Victims' Rights amendment to the Constitution of the United States. (Applause.)

As I mentioned, this amendment is sponsored by Senator Feinstein of California, Senator Kyl of Arizona -- one a Democrat, one a Republican. Both great Americans. (Applause.)

This amendment makes some basic pledges to Americans. Victims of violent crime deserve the right to be notified of public proceedings involving the crime. They deserve to be heard at public proceedings regarding the criminal's sentence or potential release. They deserve to have their safety considered. They deserve consideration of their claims of restitution. We must guarantee these rights for all the victims of violent crime in America.

The Feinstein-Kyl Amendment was written with care, and strikes a proper balance. Our legal system properly protects the rights of the accused in the Constitution. But it does not provide similar protection for the rights of victims, and that must change. (Applause.)

The protection of victims' rights is one of those rare instances when amending the Constitution is the right thing to do. And the Feinstein-Kyl Crime Victims' Rights Amendment is the right way to do it.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America. (Applause.)

###

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

April 18, 2002

Thirty years ago, advocates from some of the most crime-ridden neighborhoods of St. Louis, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., founded the Nation's first assistance programs for crime victims. These centers were established in communities where violence was common, and they were clear about their mission: to bring help, hope, and healing to those who had suffered the effects of crime. The creation of these victim-assistance programs launched a movement that brought domestic violence shelters, homicide victim support groups, and rape crisis centers to help victims in cities and towns throughout the United States.

The crime victims' rights movement also brought changes in the way the criminal justice system treats and interacts with crime victims. In many cases, crime victims began to be treated with greater respect and to play an important role in criminal justice proceedings.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan assembled a task force of nine national leaders to travel the country and listen to service providers, criminal justice professionals, and victims. The Task Force's Final Report listed 68 recommendations for meeting victims' needs, including the need for a Federal constitutional amendment. The momentum generated by this report helped spur passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, which now supports thousands of assistance programs throughout the Nation. The Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982 and other laws have given victims of Federal crimes many important rights.

All 50 States have now passed victims' rights laws, and more than half the States have amended their constitutions to guarantee rights for crime victims. However, more remains to be done to secure victims' rights. I support a Federal Constitutional Amendment to protect the rights of victims of violent crime.

Our Nation has come to realize the tragic toll that crime takes, and we have developed the resources to ease crime's physical, emotional, and financial impact. This support network, which was already in place on September 11, made us better prepared to deal with the unspeakable pain and tragedy inflicted by the terrorist attacks. Along with the many firefighters, law enforcement officers, paramedics, and rescue workers who responded in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania, hundreds of counselors, chaplains, social workers, volunteers, and victim service providers came together for the common purpose of helping the victims, the families, and our Nation.

My Administration has made the fight against crime a top priority. But when a crime does occur, I am dedicated to providing assistance and comfort to victims and to ensuring that the rights of victims are protected. At the time of their great trauma, crime victims deserve nothing less than our complete support.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 21 through April 27, 2002, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I encourage every community to embrace the cause of victims' rights and services and to advance them in all sectors of our society.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

May 10, 2002

In the face of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, our Nation witnessed the remarkable heroism of America's peace officers as they selflessly aided those in need. As the World Trade Center towers burned, dedicated officers rushed into the severely damaged buildings to rescue the injured. Seventy-two peace officers died that day, trying to save others. These supreme sacrifices remind us of the remarkable commitment that our Nation's peace officers have made to preserve our safety and our country's well-being.

In all, 230 law enforcement officers gave their lives in the line of duty last year. The name of each fallen officer has a place of honor on the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial wall in Washington, D.C. This monument ensures that the valor of the more than 15,000 law enforcement officers lost since 1794 will never be forgotten.

Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week pay tribute to the local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers who serve and protect us with courage and dedication. These observances also remind us of the ongoing need to be vigilant against all forms of crime, especially to acts of extreme violence and terrorism.

Effective law enforcement is a crucial element to maintaining our quality of life; and we must continue to ensure that our police have the financial, technical, and civil support necessary to carry out their responsibilities. The more than 740,000 sworn law enforcement officers who are our first responders play a critical role in our Nation's safety and security.

Every American should also play a role in making our communities safer. Programs operated through the Citizen Corps, including Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, and the Terrorism Information and Prevention System, offer citizens the opportunity to take a stand against crime. As we observe Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, I encourage all Americans to learn more about ways to fight crime in their communities and to honor the brave individuals who protect our lives and property.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2002, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and May 12 through May 18, 2002, as Police Week. I call on Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call on Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers' Memorial Day. I further encourage all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes on that day.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

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

June 25, 2002
(House)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

(THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN COORDINATED BY OMB WITH THE CONCERNED AGENCIES)

H.R. 4623 - Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act of 2002

(Rep. Smith (R) Texas and 69 cosponsors)

The Administration strongly supports House passage of H.R. 4623, which would revise and strengthen the Nation's child pornography laws in light of *Ashcroft v. Free Speech Coalition*. Passage of the bill would be an important step in protecting children from abuse by ensuring effective child pornography prosecutions.

* * * * *

President Announces Steps to Keep America's Children Safe

Remarks by the President Announcing the Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children

The Rose Garden

August 6, 2002

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. We're gathered here today because we share a profound concern for the safety of the most precious and important people in our own lives and the life of our country, our children. After the terror of September the 11th, many parents throughout America found themselves holding their children more closely. Unfortunately, as we work to help our children feel safer by fighting terror, America's children and parents are also facing a wave of horrible violence from twisted criminals in our own communities.

During recent months, we have prayed and worried with parents as their children have been kidnaped and, in some cases, murdered. The kidnaping or murder of a child is every parent's worst nightmare.

Today, I call on all federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and our communities and our citizens to work together to do everything in our power to better protect our children.

I appreciate so very much the Attorney General John Ashcroft for his work on this issue. I appreciate Secretary Rod Paige at the Department of Education, who is working with us on this issue. The FBI has provided investigators, agents to the scenes of these horrible crimes as quickly as humanly possible, so I appreciate Director Mueller and his agents.

I want to thank Ernie Allen, who is the president and chief executive officer of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. As well, I want to thank Carolyn Atwell-Davis, who is the government relations liaison for the Center. These are two fine human beings who care deeply about our children and are making a positive difference in the lives for a lot of families and a lot of communities around America.

The most recent statistics available tell a terrible story. More than 58,000 children are abducted by non-family members annually. Many of these children are returned home quickly, but some are not. Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies work every day to find these missing children, and to punish severely those who have committed crimes against them.

Today, we're taking steps to focus on preventing crimes against children before they happen. The Department of Justice will release a handbook of simple and practical steps that parents can take to make their children safer.

One of the most important things that a mom or dad can do is talk to your children very specifically, and rehearse what they can say and do if they ever feel threatened. You should teach your children how to say no, and how to trust their instincts. For example, children should know that unfamiliar adults usually would not ask them for directions or help. Such a request might be a trick to get their attention, and of course to lure them away from safety.

The handbook also has practical advice to help families and communities make their homes and their schools and their neighborhoods safer. Children should know a safe place to seek help if they are approached by a stranger on their way to school, or if they're standing at a bus stop.

We developed these guidelines with the help of federal agencies, and of course with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. And they're available at the Center's web site, www.missingkids.com. If a mom or a dad wants to learn more today about how to protect his or her child, go to the web site, www.missingkids.com, and learn some practical advice and some useful tips. The Department of Education will distribute the handbook to every public and private school in the country, and that's why our Secretary of Education is here.

I urge the families to get these recommendations and to discuss the important safety tips with their children. Next month, we will convene a White House Conference on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children. This forum will bring together leading national experts to focus on ways parents and communities can help shield children from the harm that is being done to some today.

Recent child abductions have understandably left many of our families in fear and the most productive response is to improve the safety of your child's environment on the best information and the best advice. Through this conference, we'll provide that advice.

Our nation has come to know the names and faces of too many wonderful children, because they've been the victims of despicable acts of violence, children like Danielle Van Dam and Samantha Runnion. But in our sorrow, we are reminded of the incredible ability of all Americans to support one another in times of need and in times of crisis.

Danielle's mother, Brenda, recently exchanged words of comfort with Samantha's mother, Erin, and here's what we said: We had a conversation, mother to mother, about our daughters, our pain, and also our hope that Danielle and Samantha are dancing together in heaven.

No family should ever have to endure the terrible pain of losing a child. Our nation grieves with every family that has suffered unbearable loss, and our nation will fight the threats against our children. We can take hopeful and practical steps to improve our children's safety, and we will take those steps together.

Thank you all very much. May God continue to protect America's children. Thank you.

###

Fact Sheet: Committed to Keeping America's Children Safe

August 6, 2002

Today's Presidential Action:

- President George W. Bush announced two new steps to help improve personal safety for the children of America.
 - The President will convene a White House Conference on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children in October. The Conference will promote public awareness of the cause of missing, exploited and runaway children, and it will bring policy makers, experts, key officials, community leaders, teachers and law enforcement together to share progress made and generate new ideas to help prevent the victimization of children.
 - The President also announced the release of a new **guidebook - "Personal Safety for Children: A Guide for Parents."** The guidebook is designed to help parents take specific steps to improve the safety of their children, and it includes information that children of all ages can understand. The guidebook reflects the work of experts on child safety from the **Department of Justice**, the **Department of Health and Human Services**, the **Department of Education**, the **FBI** and the **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**. It is available online in English and in Spanish at www.missingkids.com.

Background on Today's Presidential Action

- Each year, more than 58,000 children in the United States are abducted by non-family members, often in connection with another crime. More than 200,000 children are abducted by family members who are seeking to interfere with a parent's custodial rights. Although the vast majority of children (at least 98%) return from these abductions, too many children do not. In the most dangerous type of abduction - stranger kidnapping - fully 40% of children are killed.
- In October, the President will host the first-ever White House Conference on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children in conjunction with the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
- The all day conference will bring together members of the President's Cabinet; federal, state and local officials; law enforcement; corporate leaders; citizen experts; parents of victim children; and other leaders involved in the cause of missing, exploited and runaway children.
- The conference will focus on a wide range of topics related to children's safety, including missing and exploited children; runaway and homeless youth; international child abduction; sex trafficking of children; child pornography; child safety and Internet safety, and corporate and community involvement.
- For FY 2003, President Bush has proposed a 26% increase in funding for the Missing and Exploited Children's Program, which provides training for state and local enforcement on handling missing child cases (\$29 million - an increase of 26% over FY 2002). The program also supports the Department of Justice's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICACTF). The President's budget request will enable the Department of Justice to double the size of the Task Force.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

POLICY TIME - DOMESTIC

Monday, September 30, 2002
1:45 p.m. - 2:05 p.m.
Oval Office
Margaret Spellings

I. PURPOSE

To brief you on the October 2 White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children.

II. BACKGROUND

On August 6, you announced your intention to host a White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children to promote public awareness of the need to improve children's safety. The Conference will be held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center on October 2. More than 600 people from across the country will attend the Conference, including parents of abducted children, law enforcement officials, Federal, State and local leaders, citizen experts, and other leaders involved in the issue. During the course of the day, senior Administration officials (the Attorney General, FBI Director Mueller, Secretaries Powell, Thompson and Paige) and nationally recognized experts will participate in panel discussions.

You and Mrs. Bush will participate in a roundtable discussion with a representative group of conference participants, including several parents. You will then proceed to the auditorium to deliver remarks, which will outline the scope of the problem of child safety and discuss the steps that your Administration and others are taking to address it.

You will also announce your support for the Hutchison-Feinstein National AMBER Alert Network Act of 2002, which would help develop, enhance, and coordinate AMBER Alert plans. AMBER Alert plans are cooperative agreements between law enforcement agencies and local broadcasters to send an emergency alert to enlist the help of the public in finding abducted children. You will urge the Congress to act on the AMBER legislation this year and outline a series of administrative actions you will take to promote AMBER Alert plans if the Congress fails to act.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Andrew Card, Chief of Staff
Mitchell Daniels, Director, OMB

Joshua Bolten, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
Karl Rove, Senior Advisor
Dan Bartlett, Assistant to the President for Communications
Nicholas Calio, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs
Ari Fleischer, Press Secretary
Margaret Spellings, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Jay Lefkowitz, Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Dean McGrath, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Vice President
Sarah Gesiriech, Associate Director, Domestic Policy Council
Joseph Shattan, Speechwriter

IV. PRESS PLAN

Closed

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Staff briefing

VI. REMARKS

None

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Conference Agenda
Draft Remarks

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
PER E.O. 12958, SEC 3.3 (C)

PH 10/26/2009

DRAFT - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

President Bush

welcomes you to

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

ON

MISSING, EXPLOITED, AND RUNAWAY CHILDREN

In conjunction with

OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

and

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

ATRIUM HALL

THE RONALD REAGAN BUILDING AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

PH 10/26/2009

~~DRAFT - CONFIDENTIAL~~

DRAFT PROGRAM

"Protecting our Nation's Children"

9:00 – 9:05 WELCOMING REMARKS

**Margaret Spellings, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Moderator for Conference**

**9:05 – 9:20 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS: A Review of the Current Situation Facing
Children**

**The Honorable John D. Ashcroft, Attorney General, U.S. Department of
Justice**

9:25– 10:05 PANEL: RISKS TO AMERICA'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**Moderator: Ernie Allen, President and CEO, National Center for Missing
and Exploited Children**

- David Finkelhor, Ph.D., Crimes Against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire
- Don and Claudine Ryce
- Phil E. Keith, Chief of Police, Knoxville Police Department
- Lucy Berliner, Director, Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress

10:10 – 10:50 PANEL: WHAT'S WORKING – SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS

**Moderator: The Honorable Bob Flores, Administrator, Office of Juvenile
Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice**

- The Honorable Florence Shapiro, Texas State Senator
- Rick Minicucci, Chief Technology Officer, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- Ed Harless, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, ADVO, Inc.
- Lt. Bill Walsh, Dallas Police Department

10:55 – 11:35 PANEL: THE FEDERAL ROLE

**Moderator: The Honorable Robert S. Mueller, III, Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigations**

- The Honorable Claude Allen, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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- The Honorable Lee Heath, Chief Postal Inspector, U.S. Postal Inspection Service
- The Honorable Nina R. Hickson, Chief Presiding Judge, Fulton County Juvenile Court
- Sgt. Gary R. O'Connor (Retired), Lower Gwynedd Township Police Department
- Bradley Russ, Chief of Police, Portsmouth Police Department

11:35 – 11:55 BREAK

**12:00 – 12:35 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: George W. Bush, President of the United States
Introduced by First Lady Laura Bush**

12:40 – 1:30 LUNCH

1:35– 2:15 PANEL: INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION AND TRAFFICKING

Moderator: The Honorable Paula Dobriansky, Undersecretary for Global Affairs, U.S. Department of State

- Gary Haugen, President and CEO, International Justice Mission
- Laura Lederer, Deputy Senior Advisor, U.S. Department of State
- Thomas R. Sylvester
- The Honorable James D. Garbolino, Superior Court of California

2:20 –3:00 PANEL: CARE FOR MISSING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Moderator: The Honorable Tommy Thompson, Secretary of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- Donna Linder, Executive Director, Child Find of America
- Sister Mary Rose McGeady, President, Covenant House
- Ann W. Burgess, Boston College School of Nursing
- Patty Wetterling, Co-Founder, Jacob Wetterling Foundation
- Bishop Keith Butler, Pastor, Word of Faith International Christian Center

3:00 - 3:15 BREAK

3:20 – 4:00 PANEL: PREVENTING THE VICTIMIZATION OF CHILDREN

Moderator: The Honorable Roderick Paige, Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education

- Susan Breault, Executive Director, The Paul and Lisa Program, Inc.
- Kenneth Wooden, Founder, Child Lures, Ltd., Child Lures Prevention

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- James Kelly, Chief of Police, Palm Beach County School District

4:05 - 4:45 PANEL: THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA AND CORPORATIONS

Moderator: John Walsh, Host "America's Most Wanted"

- John Murphy, Vice President Loss Prevention, Wal-Mart Stores Inc.
- Alina Falcon, Senior Vice President and Director of News Division, Univision
- Jim O'Connor, Group Vice President, Marketing Sales and Service, Ford Motor Company
- Martha Nelson, Editor-in-Chief, People Magazine
- Parry Aftab, Executive Director, Wiredsafety.org

4:50 - 5:15 CONCLUDING REMARKS: The Honorable Colin Powell, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State

Remarks at the White House Conference on Missing, Exploited and
Runaway Children
October 2, 2002
Draft #9

The kidnapping of a child is every parent's worst nightmare – yet too many moms and dads have experienced this nightmare all across America. I have just met with parents who have had the most precious person in their lives suddenly and brutally taken away from them. Some of these parents were eventually reunited with their children. Some are still hoping, and waiting. Some know that they will never see their loved ones again in this earthly life.

When a child's life or liberty or innocence is taken, it is a terrible loss. And those responsible have committed a terrible crime. Our society has a duty to shield children from danger and exploitation. At this conference, we are discussing the steps that parents, community leaders, and law enforcement can take to prevent such tragedies. I thank the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, for helping to organize this important meeting.

Acknowledgements

- Secretary Rod Paige, Department of Education
- Attorney General John Ashcroft, Department of Justice
- Secretary Tommy Thompson, Department of Health and Human Services
- Secretary Colin Powell, Department of State
- Director Richard Mueller, Federal Bureau Investigation
- Members of Congress [To Be Filled In Before Wednesday]

Our first duty as adults is to create an environment in which children can grow and thrive without fearing for their security. Because children are so vulnerable, they need the care of adults. And because they are so vulnerable, those who are cruel and predatory often target children.

We see the dangers to our children in the cases of abduction known to us all. Each year, more than 58,000 children are abducted by non-family members, often in connection with another crime. And while the

overwhelming majority of these children return from abductions, too many do not. We also see the dangers in the experience of runaway children, who are often victims of hunger, sickness, and sexual abuse. Every year, assaults, illness, and suicide take the lives of about five thousand runaways. One of the many faith-based and community organizations that provides much-needed assistance to runaways and other youth in need is Covenant House -- which is led by Sister Mary Rose McGeady who is here today.

The threats to our children are found not just on the streets, but in the technology we use in our homes. The Internet is a wonderful tool for children to use to broaden their minds and expand their world. But the evils of the world have crept into the Internet. In one year alone, one in five children between the ages of 10 and 17 received a sexual solicitation over the Internet. With expanding use of the Internet, and the heightened activity of predators searching for underage victims, more children are being lured into harmful, even tragic, situations.

In every region of the world, children can be vulnerable. Each year, about one million girls and boys are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Such trafficking is nothing less than a modern form of slavery -- an unspeakable and unforgivable crime against the most vulnerable members of our global society.

All of these dangers put children at risk -- and all of these dangers demand action to protect children from harm.

My Justice Department has made the prevention and investigation of child abductions a major priority. We are providing state and local authorities with access to fingerprint records, forensic experts, and training on missing children cases. The Department also sponsors a 24-hour hotline for reporting missing children, operated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

We are also waging a nationwide effort to prevent the use of the Internet to sexually exploit children. We are seeking to almost double the funding for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces, which help state and local authorities enforce the laws against child pornography and exploitation. And we are vigorously prosecuting those who prey upon our children. I am pleased the House passed the Child Obscenity and

Pornography Prevention Act this year to revise and strengthen our child pornography laws. The Senate should work with the House to pass legislation this year to help protect America's children from the evils of child pornography.

And we are not forgetting the suffering and the struggles of America's runaway children. The federal government supports hundreds of emergency shelters and programs that reach out to young people living on the street – offering food, comfort and counseling. These programs are mainly administered by community and faith-based groups. They help as many as 100,000 runaway children every year – children who are especially vulnerable to abduction and exploitation.

On the international front, the United States is acting vigorously against the trafficking of young children. Last February, I established an Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. The Task Force is working hard to prosecute traffickers, protect victims, and prevent future trafficking. In the past year alone, the Department of Justice prosecuted four times as many traffickers as it did two years ago. I promise you this: We will not rest until the scourge is ended.

The responsibility to protect America's children is shared throughout our society, by government at every level and by parents in every home. Parents, of course, are the first line of defense against danger. To help parents protect their children, the Department of Education has distributed a new guidebook providing practical steps that parents can take to make their children safer – and information that children of all ages can understand.

This book tells mothers and fathers how to rehearse with their children what to say or do if they ever feel threatened. The book also lists web sites that provide additional information about protecting children from abduction and exploitation. Parents need to pay as much attention to their children when they are on the Internet as they do when they are at the playground or the mall. This guidebook is being distributed to every public school in the Nation. Parents can also request a copy online, at MissingKids.com [MISSING KIDS DOT COM].

Sometimes, despite a family's best efforts, the unthinkable happens – and a child is abducted. At that point, parents need the support of their communities to find their child as quickly as possible.

One very successful program to locate abducted children is the Amber Plan. It is a voluntary partnership through which police and local broadcasters issue urgent bulletins to the public as soon as a child is missing. The program began in Dallas in 1996, after nine-year-old Amber Hagerman was abducted and killed. I want to thank State Senator Florence Shapiro for helping to launch Amber in Texas. Amber Plans are expanding across the country, and have helped in the rescue of several abducted children and teens. I just met with Sharon Brooks and her 16-year-old daughter, Tamara. This summer, Tamara and her friend Jacqueline were abducted at gunpoint in Lancaster, California. The police issued an Amber Alert within hours, and soon received tips that led them to their rescue. People all across America shared a great feeling of relief when Tamara and Jacqueline were saved. And we were all grateful for the Amber Plan.

Yet there are gaps in Amber Plan coverage that need to be filled. We need to develop more Amber Plans and better coordination among plans. I support legislation by Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and Dianne Feinstein to achieve these goals. I thank them for their good work, and I urge Congress to act on this legislation before the end of the current session. But we should not allow another day to go by without taking steps to extend Amber's reach all across our Nation. So today, the Attorney General is appointing an Amber Alert Coordinator to help state and local officials develop, enhance and coordinate Amber Plans. The Department of Justice will establish standards for the issuance and dissemination of alerts. And both the Justice and Transportation Departments will provide money to improve the growing network of Amber Plans. We want Amber Alerts to be issued when they are necessary as quickly and effectively as possible – including on electronic billboards along the Nation's highways.

The Amber Alert system is a fine example of how the public and private sectors can work together to help protect our children. Good corporate citizens are also joining this effort. Companies like Toys-R-Us, Wal-Mart, and Home Depot, as well as Ford dealerships, are providing free child photo IDs, so that parents can provide law enforcement with the kind of sharply-focused, head and shoulder pictures, along with relevant

biological information, in the event of an emergency. By the end of this year, more than two and a half million children will have been photographed and identified to help recover them if they are ever abducted. I hope many other companies will join this important effort.

I thank all of you for participating in the first White House Conference on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children. The safety and security of our children is a moral duty that every adult should feel deeply and act upon with vigilance. This great Nation is resolved to fight the dangers in the lives of our children. We must find every way we can to defeat those dangers so that all of America's children can share in the great blessings of this country. I am confident that, together, we can and we will meet our responsibilities as elected officials, as citizens, and as parents.

Thank you and may God bless America – and America's children.

*Drafted by: Joe Shattan, Office of Speechwriting
Office: 202/456-5640*

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National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

October 1, 2002

Domestic violence in America is intolerable and must be stopped. According to the 2000 National Crime Victimization Survey, almost 700,000 incidents of violence between partners were documented in our Nation, and thousands more go unreported. And in the past quarter century, almost 57,000 Americans were murdered by a partner. Children who witness domestic violence often grow up believing that physical cruelty in relationships is acceptable behavior, and thus they may tend to perpetuate a cycle of violence in society.

Many Federal, State, and local programs addressing the domestic violence problem have achieved success, bringing greater safety to families. The success of coordinated community-based efforts is helping us win the battle against domestic violence. Community leaders, police, judges, advocates, healthcare workers, and concerned Americans are working together across America to develop solutions to this serious problem and to implement services that will improve our responses when it occurs. For example, many police departments and district attorneys offices have created specialized domestic violence units that cooperate with community advocates to enhance services for victims; and representatives from the faith community frequently provide essential support in areas where there may be no other services available. Programs designed to educate men and women about ways they can help prevent domestic violence are being developed across our Nation. Every citizen has the ability to aid and assist those suffering from domestic abuse and to let victims know that support is available through shelters, hotlines, and other services.

To better assist victims in need, my Administration recently implemented funding for new programs to improve outreach and services for people who are older or who have disabilities.

We have also intensified our efforts to provide meaningful access to Federally sponsored programs for individuals with limited English proficiency, making it easier for them to escape violence, report crime, and gain access to community services.

We must continue to hold domestic abusers accountable; we must punish them to the full extent of the law; and we must prevent them from inflicting more abuse. Protective orders are helpful and can be enforced in every jurisdiction in our country, which means their power extends across State lines and onto tribal lands. This legal authority makes it easier for police and prosecutors to keep aggressors away from their intended targets. Many abusers become more dangerous after court-enforced separation from their victims and often use visitation or exchange of children as an opportunity to inflict abuse. We are working to expand programs that improve the safety of family members in these situations.

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I urge all Americans to join together in recommitting themselves to eliminating domestic violence and reaching out to its victims, letting them know that help is available. With dedication and vigilance, we can increase safety for thousands of our citizens and bring hope to countless Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2002 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to become a part of the coordinated community response to domestic violence and to send the message that this crime will not be tolerated in our Nation.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

Remarks by the President at White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children

Ronald Reagan Building
Washington, D.C.

October 2, 2002

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for coming. One of the reasons I like this job so much is you get to be introduced by your wife. (Laughter.) And I appreciate Laura's love and compassion for all children, and I appreciate the job she's doing. I'm a lucky man to be able to call her my wife -- call her my wife. And thanks for coming. (Applause.)

The kidnapping of a child is every parent's worst nightmare. Yet, too many moms and dads have experienced this nightmare across America. Too many have suffered. I've just met with parents -- Laura and I met with parents -- who have had the most precious person in their lives suddenly and brutally taken away from them. Some of these parents were eventually reunited with their children. Some are still hoping, and waiting. Some know they will never see their loved ones again in this earthly life.

When a child's life or liberty or innocence is taken, it is a terrible, terrible loss. And those responsible have committed a terrible crime. Our society has a duty, has a solemn duty, to shield children from exploitation and danger. At this conference, we are discussing the steps that parents and community leaders and law enforcement can take to prevent such tragedies.

I want to thank the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, for helping organize this important and vital meeting. And I want to thank you all for coming.

I appreciate the senior members of my administration who are leading the sessions at today's conference. I thank our Secretary of State Colin Powell; Attorney General John Ashcroft; Secretary Tommy Thompson; Secretary Rod Paige. I appreciate the Director of the FBI, Bob Mueller, for coming. And I want to thank the Commissioner, Robert Bonner, of the U.S. Customs.

I know there's a lot of members of Congress who are here. I see the great Senator from Texas, Kay Bailey Hutchison is here, as well as other members of Congress. Thank you all for coming. Thank you for taking this issue seriously and thanks for joining with a lot of concerned citizens.

I appreciate so very much the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. They do a really good job for America. (Applause.) I want to thank Ernie, and I want to thank Carolyn Atwill-Davis, the legal consultant, for their hard work and for their care and concern. I also want to thank Margaret Spellings, who is Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, for moderating this conference.

And, of course, I've got to say something about John Walsh, TV star. But he's a guy who cares deeply about our country, about the safety of our citizens. And, John, thank you for the service you do on behalf of the American people. (Applause.)

Our first duty as adults is to create an environment in which children can grow and thrive without fearing for their security. That's what we've got to do. Because children are so vulnerable, they need the care of adults. Because they're so vulnerable, those who are cruel and predatory often target our children.

We see the dangers to our children in the cases of abduction, many of which are known to us all. Each year tens of thousands of children are abducted by non-family members, often in connection with a crime. And while the overwhelming majority of these children are returned from abductions, too many are not. One is too many. Particularly for the mom or dad who suffers deeply.

We see the dangers in the experience of runaway children who are often victims of hunger and sickness and sexual abuse. Every year, assaults and illness and suicide take the lives of about 5,000 runaways. One life is too many.

The threats to our children are found not just on our streets, but they're found in the technology which we use in our homes. The Internet is a wonderful tool for our children to broaden their knowledge, expand their minds, but the evils of the world have crept into the Internet. In one year alone, one in five children between the ages of 10 and 17 received a sexual solicitation over the Internet. With expanding use of the Internet and the heightened activity of predators searching for under-age victims, more children are being lured into harmful and even tragic situations.

In every region in the world, children can be vulnerable -- not just here at home, but children everywhere. Each year about a million girls and boys are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Such trafficking is nothing less than a modern form of slavery; an unspeakable and unforgivable crime against the most vulnerable members of the global society. All these dangers put children at risk. All these dangers demand action to protect our children from harm.

The Justice Department has made the prevention and investigation of child abductions a major priority. We're providing state and local authorities with access to fingerprint record and forensic experts, and training on missing children cases. We want the local authorities to have the best available technologies and skills in order to respond quickly. The Department sponsors a 24-hour hotline for reporting missing children, which is operated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. We're waging an nationwide effort to prevent use of the Internet to sexually exploit children. We're seeking to almost double the funding for the Internet Crimes Against Children task forces, which will help state and local authorities enforce laws against child pornography and exploitation.

We're vigorously prosecuting those who prey on our children. We need to send a clear message: If you prey on our children, there will be serious, severe consequences. (Applause.)

Earlier this year, in Operation Candyman, the FBI dismantled a major child pornography ring. They made more than 100 arrests. I'm pleased that the House of Representatives passed the Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act this year to revise and strengthen our pornography laws. The Senate needs to work with the House to get legislation done before they go home. We need to do everything we can to protect our children from the evils of pornography. (Applause.)

We will not forget the suffering and struggles of America's runaway children. The federal government supports hundreds of emergency shelters and programs that reach out to young people living on the street, offering them food and comfort and counseling. These programs are mainly administered by community and faith-based groups. After all, it's in our faith-based community where we hear that universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. It's in our faith-based groups that we find deep compassion to help those in need and who are troubled. And many of the runaway kids are troubled and in deep need of love.

There are as many as 100,000 runaway children every year. And these children are vulnerable; they're vulnerable to exploitation. There are some great programs in America, people who are soldiers in the armies of compassion -- one of which is the Covenant House. We're honored today to have Sister Mary Rose McGeady here. She runs the Covenant House. And if you don't know anything about the Covenant House and if you're interested in helping, support the Covenant House, or programs like the Covenant House, because these people help those on the street, those young, vulnerable children on the street, to realize there is love in our society and there is hope for a better way.

On the international front, the United States is acting vigorously against the trafficking of young people. Last February, I established an interagency task force to monitor and combat trafficking in persons. The task force is working hard to prosecute traffickers, protect victims and prevent future trafficking. The past year alone, the Department of Justice prosecuted four times as many traffickers as it did two years ago. We are making progress. (Applause.)

We've got to continue to work with our friends and allies to prevent this scourge from not only spreading, but to stop it. It is, as I said earlier, slavery. And this nation stands against slavery of any kind. (Applause.)

The responsibility to protect America's children is shared throughout our society by government at every level and by parents in every home. Parents, of course, are the first line of defense against danger. To help our parents protect their children, the Department of Education has distributed a new guidebook providing practical steps that parents

can take to make their children safer; practical steps that make it clear about how a parent needs to deal with their child about the dangers facing children.

And this information, you'll be pleased to hear, is written in ways so that the children can actually understand what's on the page. The book tells mothers and fathers how to rehearse with their children what to say or do if they ever feel threatened. It's a practical guide to explain to children how to deal with predators that are smooth and seductive; how to deal with somebody that's a stranger that sounds sweet-talking, but may in their heart be dark and dangerous for our children. The book also lists websites that provide information about protecting children. Information is powerful and it's important for our parents to know.

Parents need to pay as much attention to their children, by the way, when they're on the Internet as when they're on a playground. They've got to know what their children are doing on the Internet. They've got to know with whom they're conversing. This guidebook will help. We're passing it out to the nation's schools, and the schools will then make it available to parents. And, as well, parents can request a copy of the guidebook, a practical go-by as to how to train your children how to deal with potential danger. And you can find it on missingkids.com.

If you're interested, if you want a practical go-by, call up missingkids.com on the Internet and you'll get some practical steps as to how to help your children avoid danger.

Sometimes, in spite of a family's best effort, the unthinkable does happen, and that's really sad. It breaks my heart to know that that continues to happen in America. At that point, the parents need the support -- when their child is abducted, the parent need immediate support of their communities, quick action to find their children. Time is of the essence.

One of the most successful programs to locate abducted children is what's called the Amber Plan. It's a voluntary partnership through which police and local broadcasters issue urgent bulletins to the public as soon as a child is missing. The program began in a local effort in Texas, I'm proud to report, in the Dallas area in 1996 after Amber Hagerman was abducted.

My friend, State Senator Florence Shapiro, is with us, I believe one of the panelists. She helped launch the Amber program. I know that it makes her feel really good to know that Amber, when in place, can really help people. Just like it helped Sharon Brooks and her 16-year-old daughter, Tamara. This summer, Tamara and Jacqueline were abducted at gunpoint in Lancaster, California. Tamara told us her story. The police issued an Amber alert within hours, and soon received tips that led to their rescue.

People all across America shared a great feeling of relief when she and her buddy were rescued. One of the reasons they were is because of the Amber Plan. There are gaps in Amber, however. There are gaps in the Amber Plan coverage which must be filled. And we can fill them. We will develop more Amber Plans, and better coordination among plans. We should not allow another day to go by without taking steps to expand the Amber Plan's reach all across our country. And so the Attorney General today is appointing an Amber Alert coordinator to help state and local officials develop, enhance and coordinate Amber Plans all across America. (Applause.)

The Department of Justice will establish standards for the issuance and dissemination of alerts. The Justice and Transportation Departments will take immediate action to provide a total of \$10 million to improve the growing network of Amber Plans. We want Amber Plan Alerts to be issued as quickly and as effectively as possible, including electronic billboards along the nation's highways.

I support legislation passed by Senator Hutchison of Texas and Senator Feinstein of California to achieve the goals I just outlined, and codify them in law. And I want to thank you both for your hard work. The House hasn't acted yet, so I am going to. And that's why I've just laid out the initiative. (Applause.) If possible, it would be very helpful if the House passed the Hutchison-Feinstein law before they go home. (Applause.)

I also am pleased that good corporate citizens are involved with helping our children. And I particularly want to point out Toys "R" Us or Wal-Mart, Home Depot, as well as Ford Motor dealerships, which are providing free child photo IDs, so that parents can provide law enforcement with sharply focused, head-and-shoulder pictures, along with relevant biological information in the event of emergency. By the end of this year, more than 2.5 million children will have been photographed and identified to help recover them if they're ever abducted.

I hope a lot of other companies follow these good citizens' example. I hope you make available resources necessary to help us combat, to fight against abduction and to help save those lives -- save the lives of those who have fallen prey to one of the worst crimes in our society.

This White House Conference on Missing and Exploited and Runaway Children is important for America. It just is. And I want to thank you all for coming. This is the beginning of a refocused effort at the federal level to help save people's lives. This is an attempt -- more than an attempt -- this is the beginning of a successful strategy implemented at all levels of government and all parts of our society to recognize a real threat and to deal with it, to recognize there are some so evil in our society that they're willing to harm our most precious and most vulnerable citizens; and to be prepared to respond quickly when that happens; to help people prevent it from happening in the first place; to make it clear, if you do it and we catch you, there's going to be serious consequences for you.

We can deal with this problem, because this is America, this is a country full of people who love and care. It's a compassionate and decent nation. This is the beginning of a concerted effort to do our duty as responsible citizens of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Again, I want to thank you all for taking your citizenship seriously. I want to thank you for understanding that a patriot is somebody more than who just puts their hand on their heart; a patriot is somebody who is willing to do whatever you can to make this country the best, continue to be the best on the face of our Earth.

May God bless your efforts. May God bless our children. And may God bless America. (Applause.)

###

President Commits Federal Resources to Assist in DC Area Violence
Statement by the President

October 2, 2002

In recent days we have witnessed a series of cowardly and senseless acts of violence in the greater Washington area. I have committed Federal resources to support the local law enforcement agencies that are in charge of the investigation, including FBI profiling experts and ballistics analysts from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

I have also directed the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to assist the students, teachers and families affected by the violence by providing counseling and other community health services.

I applaud the State and local law enforcement officials who are working around the clock to help solve these heinous crimes and protect our citizens. Laura and I send our thoughts and prayers to the victims and their families.

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**COPY
FROM ORM** **THE WHITE HOUSE**
WASHINGTON

DOMESTIC POLICY BRIEFING

Monday, October 21, 2002
1:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Oval Office
Margaret Spellings

I. PURPOSE

To brief you on law enforcement initiatives to fight child pornography and exploitation of children on the Internet, and to discuss your event on Wednesday, October 23, which will highlight these initiatives.

II. BACKGROUND

On October 2, 2002, you hosted the White House Conference on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children. As a follow-up to the Conference, you will participate in an event on Wednesday, October 23, to highlight Federal law enforcement efforts to fight child pornography and child exploitation on the Internet and to prosecute offenders. You will have a roundtable discussion in the Roosevelt Room with law enforcement officials and then deliver remarks in Room 450 of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building to an audience that includes Federal law enforcement officials, online safety experts, organizations involved in the issue, and trainees for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Innocent Images program.

Your remarks will highlight the following: (1) "Innocent Images," a successful initiative operated by the FBI, in which agents pose as children on the Internet to identify and bring to justice sexual predators and rescue child victims; (2) the various Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces, which are operated by State and local officials in various cities throughout the country and are funded by the Justice Department; and (3) recent successful operations against Internet child exploitation by the Customs Service and the Postal Inspection Service.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Andrew Card, Chief of Staff
Joshua Bolten, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
Karl Rove, Senior Advisor
Dan Bartlett, Assistant to the President for Communications
Nicholas Calio, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs
Ari Fleischer, Press Secretary

Margaret Spellings, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Jay Lefkowitz, Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Ado Machida, Deputy Assistant to the Vice President for Domestic Policy
Peter Wehner, Speechwriter to the President
Garry Malphrus, Associate Director for the Domestic Policy Council

IV. PRESS PLAN

Closed

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Staff briefing

VI. REMARKS

None

VII. ATTACHMENT

None

###

President Increases Federal Efforts to Promote Online Safety

Remarks by the President on Children's Online Safety

Presidential Hall

Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building

October 23, 2002

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all for coming. Welcome to the White House. And thanks for the work that most of you do on behalf of protecting this country's children. Because children are so vulnerable, they need the constant protection of adults. And because children are so vulnerable, they're often the targets of cruel and ruthless criminals.

I am deeply saddened by the recent tragedy that we've seen here in Washington. There is a ruthless person on the loose. I've ordered the full resources of the federal government to help local law enforcement officials in their efforts to capture this person. Laura and I join our fellow Americans in prayer as we pray for the families and friends who have lost loved ones, as we pray for the safety of our fellow citizens, as we pray for the quick end to this period of violence and fear.

Protecting children from sexual exploitation is also a priority. It needs to be a priority, and is a priority, of this country. Earlier this month I convened the first ever White House Conference on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children. And those efforts continue today.

I've just met with law enforcement representatives from the federal, state and local level from several states who spend their time tracking down and prosecuting online predators. These officials are impressive people. They're the best of America. They're doing difficult and disturbing and essential work. And I thank them for coming here today.

Our nation has made this commitment: Anyone who targets a child for harm will be a primary target of law enforcement. That's our commitment. Anyone who takes the life or innocence of a child will be punished to the full extent of the law.

Today, I want to discuss with you several aggressive steps we are taking to protect our children from exploitation and from danger on the Internet. I appreciate so very much Robert Mueller, the Director of the FBI, is here with us today. I thank you for your service, for your good work. I want to thank the Deputy Attorney General of the Department of Justice, Larry Thompson, for being here. Mr. Deputy, thanks for coming. Bob Bonners, the Commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service, is with us today. They play an integral role in helping to catch these predators overseas.

Federal, state and law enforcement officers and prosecutors who are here with us today, ranging from California, to Alabama, to Maryland -- from all around the country -- I want to thank you all for being here to hear this progress and commitment that we share for our country.

When a child's life or innocence is taken, a grave and unforgivable act has occurred. A parent's worst nightmare has become real. And you all here are on the front lines of this great struggle to see to it that no parent has to live through the nightmare. That's what you're doing.

The Internet is a remarkable technology. We've all learned that. It's revolutionized education, vastly increased the flow of information, increases our knowledge. We're now in closer touch with our family and friends. People are now connected across the globe. It's an exciting tool. But more than half of our nation's children now online -- let me start over -- more than half of the nation is now online, and 75 percent of the children are online.

The flow of information is freer and broader. Yet the new freedom presents us with an unprecedented challenge: A technology that brings knowledge also brings obscenity and danger. Until recently, the worst kind of pornography was mainly limited to red-light districts or restricted to adults or confined by geography, isolated by shame. With the Internet, pornography is now instantly available to any child who has a computer. And in the hands of the wrong people, in the hands of incredibly wicked people, the Internet is a tool that lures children into real danger.

Sexual predators use the Internet to distribute child pornography and obscenity. They use the Internet to engage in sexually explicit conversations. They use the Internet to lure children out of the safety of their homes into harm's way. Every day, millions of children log on to the Internet, and every day we learn more about the evil of the world that has crept into it. In a single year, one in four children between the ages of 10 and 17 is voluntarily -- involuntarily exposed to pornography. That's one in four children. One in five children receives a sexual solicitation over the Internet. One in 17 children is threatened or harassed. We've got a widespread problem, and we're going to deal with it.

We don't accept this kind of degrading. It's unacceptable to America. We don't accept offensive conduct like this in our schools, in the commercial establishments, and we can't accept it in our homes. We cannot allow this to happen to our children. The chief responsibility to protect America's children lies with their parents. You are responsible for the welfare of your child. It's your responsibility.

There are several practical things parents can do to protect their children from the dangers of online predators. First of all, pay attention to your children. If you love your children, pay attention to them. Know what they're doing. Share your experience with your children. Make it clear to your children about the potential online dangers they face. Make it clear to them the kinds of websites they need to avoid.

Children need to be told to never provide personal information to anyone online. It seems like a simple parental responsibility. Mothers and dads all across America need to do their job and make it clear to their children there can be danger by providing personal information. Don't share any passwords -- that's a logical thing for a mom or a dad to do, tell their children not to share a password with a total stranger. Don't agree to meet with somebody they've never met. Don't agree to meet with somebody that chats them up on the Internet, unless the mom or dad is with them.

Parents should keep computers in a central location, and check up on what their kids are doing. They ought to not ignore what their children are doing. They ought to pay attention to their children. They have a responsibility. A mother or dad ought to pay just as much attention to their child when they're on the Internet as if they're in a playground, or walking in the mall.

Parents have the first and foremost responsibility. Yet we as a society share this duty, as well, and that's what we were talking about today. Parents need allies in the upbringing of their children. Our nation should make the essential work of mothers and fathers easier, not harder. Our government, at every level, must take the side of responsible parents, and we will.

We're waging an aggressive nationwide effort to prevent the use of the Internet to sexually exploit and endanger children. That's what we're doing. I want to share some of that with you today. Through an FBI program called Innocent Images, we identify, we investigate, and we prosecute sexual predators across the country.

FBI agents are obtaining evidence of criminal Internet activity by conducting undercover operation, using fictitious screen names and entering into online chat rooms. I had the honor of listening to one such FBI agent today. She was telling us what it's like to deal with these sick minds. Interesting, afterwards I said, it must be tough to do the job you do. She says, I have two children, I don't want it to ever happen to any child. I appreciate your dedication.

Innocent Images prosecutions increased by more than 50 percent over the last two years. We're making progress. Just like we're hunting the terrorists down one at a time, we're hunting these predators down one at a time, too. Based on the progress, I'm pleased to announce that we will expand this program and significantly increase the funding in the next fiscal year. We will also seek to almost double funding for the Internet crimes against children task forces, from \$6.5 million in fiscal year 2002 to \$12.5 million in fiscal 2003. These task forces help state and local authorities enforce laws against child pornography and exploitation.

Since 1998, the task forces have helped train more than 1,500 prosecutors, and 1,900 investigators. They've served 700 search warrants and 1,400 subpoenas. The task forces have provided direct, investigative assistance in more than 3,000 cases. They've arrested more than 1,400 suspects. These task forces are a great success. They're a great success because we've got a lot of good people working on these projects, a lot of dedicated Americans whose stomachs turn when they realize what's happening to our children, great Americans who decided to do something about it.

This additional funding I've announced means that in -- we'll increase the number of regional task forces, up to 40 around the country. Our efforts to fight Internet exploitation of children extend throughout this government, throughout all levels of government. The U.S. Postal Inspection service provides an important role in tracking sexual predators, because child pornographers often use the mail to purchase obscene materials off the Internet. In Operation Avalanche, postal inspectors created an undercover website which they used to bring down what is to believe -- what is believed to be the largest commercial child pornography enterprise ever encountered by law enforcement authorities in the United States. They started in Texas; it ended in Texas -- because of the hard work of the postal inspectors, the good work of prosecutors, and the sentencing of one tough federal judge.

The Customs Service is conducting Operation Hamlet, which earlier this year dismantled an international ring of child molesters, an international ring of sick minds. Acting on a tip from European authorities, Customs officers tracked down child molesters in the United States, many of whom were molesting their own children and distributing the images of these children on the Internet. Authorities have identified 25 individuals involved in this ring -- 14 of whom were Americans. Through Operation Hamlet, 65 children have been rescued.

We're taking aggressive steps to protect children from exploitation and victimization. And the United States Congress can help by passing the Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act. The House has passed this important bill, and I want to thank them for their good work.

The House passed a bill which makes it illegal for child pornographers to disseminate obscene, computer-generated images of children. It's an important piece of legislation. The Senate needs to act soon. The Senate needs to get moving and join the House in providing our prosecutors with the tools necessary to help shut down this obscenity, this crime -- these crimes against children.

When a child's life or innocence is taken, a grave and unforgivable act has occurred. A parent's worst nightmare has come real. People in this room are on the front lines of a great struggle, determined to see that no parent is forced to live through a nightmare.

I'm tremendously grateful for the good works. I want to thank you all for being true patriots. I want you to know at the federal level we're joining in the fight. We'll go after them one person at a time to make America a promising place for everybody who lives here. May God bless your work, and may God bless America. (Applause.) Thank you all.

###

Increasing Online Safety for America's Children

October 23, 2002

Today's Presidential Action

- As part of his agenda to increase the safety of America's children, President Bush is increasing federal efforts to promote online safety. The President discussed his Administration's commitment to expanding the investigation and vigorous prosecution of child exploitation on the Internet. And, he urged the parents of America to take time to teach their children about staying safe online.
- President Bush also called on the Congress to pass the Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act. This bill, which has already passed the House, makes it illegal for child pornographers to disseminate obscene, computer-generated images of children.

Background on Today's Presidential Action

- Earlier this month, President Bush hosted the first-ever White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children to promote public awareness of the need to improve children's safety, and to generate recommendations and best practices from experts in the field.
- One of the critical topics discussed at the White House Conference was the growing threat of cyberpredators. Nearly 30 million children and youth go online annually, and 75% of children between the ages of 14 and 17 use the Internet. Research by the University of New Hampshire found that one in five children between the ages of 10 and 17 received a sexual solicitation over the Internet in the last year. One in thirty-three received an aggressive solicitation - a solicitor who asked to meet them somewhere; called them on the telephone; or sent them regular mail, money, or gifts.
- The Internet is a tremendous educational resource for parents, teachers, and children. Parental, private sector, and government efforts are continuing to improve online child safety and will help make the Internet a safer and ever more valuable tool for children. To that end, the Bush Administration is working aggressively to fight child exploitation and child pornography on the Internet.
- The FBI Innocent Images National Initiative identifies and investigates sexual predators who use the Internet to exploit children. Within the past two Fiscal Years, Innocent Images prosecutions have increased 52% (from 421 to 641). The program will expand from 24 to approximately 30 undercover operations during FY 2003.
- The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces, which are funded by the Justice Department, provide skills, equipment, and personnel to help state and local authorities combat child sexual exploitation. Since 1998, the Task Forces have helped train more than 1,500 prosecutors and 1,900 investigators; served 700 search warrants and 1,400 subpoenas; provided direct investigative assistance in more than 3,000 cases; and arrested more than 1,400 suspects. The President's 2003 Budget seeks to almost double funding for the program (from \$6.5 million in FY 2002 to \$12.5 million in FY 2003), which would expand the regional task force network from 30 to at least 40 states and provide national coverage.
- Federal prosecutions for child exploitation and child pornography, which include Innocent Images prosecutions, are projected to increase 17% for FY 2002 ? a 22% increase in the past two Fiscal Years. With approval of the President's FY 2003 Budget, funding for the Justice Department's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section will have increased 44% in two years (from \$3.4 million in FY 2001 to \$4.9 million in FY 2003).

Examples of Recent Federal Actions Against Online Child Exploitation

- The federal government is actively cracking down against online child exploitation, include the following operations:

- In Operation Avalanche, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service conducted a joint undercover operation with the Dallas Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. To date, 130 individuals have been charged in the operation, which broke up what is believed to be the largest commercial child pornography enterprise ever encountered by law enforcement authorities in the United States.
- In Operation Hamlet, the Customs Service dismantled an international ring of child molesters who, in many cases, molested their own children and distributed the images over the Internet. Thus far, 65 exploited children have now been rescued. Twenty-five individuals have been arrested, including 14 Americans.
- In Operation Candyman, the FBI dismantled a major child pornography ring. More than 110 persons have been charged and 36 convicted as a result of the investigation.

Resources for Parents

- President Bush also urged parents to take time to teach their children about how to stay safe while using the Internet.
- There are a number of resources available to help parents increase their children's online safety, including several federal or federally-sponsored websites:
- The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (<http://www.missingkids.com>) offers a variety of resources for parents and children who are interested in online safety. The National Center, in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Customs Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and state and local law enforcement in Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces, serves as the national CyberTipline. To report information about child pornography and the online enticement of children, parents can log on to <http://www.cybertipline.com> or call the Tipline at 1-800-843-5678.
- The Department of Justice children's page has a list of online safety steps for children that is available at <http://www.cybercrime.gov/rules/rules.htm>
- The 1998 Children's Online Privacy Protection Act was passed by Congress to ensure that websites do not ask children for personal information without parental consent. The FTC has developed a website with online privacy tips for parents and children at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/kidzprivacy/index.html>
- The FBI has produced "A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety" that is available online at <http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguide.htm>

###

President Thanks Law Enforcement Officials for Work on Sniper Case
Statement by the President

October 24, 2002

The entire Nation is grateful to all of the local, state and Federal law enforcement officials who have worked with such great urgency and with so little rest to solve the sniper case. Their efforts resulted in the apprehension of those considered suspects in the sniper shootings. We are also grateful to the citizens who kept their eyes open, and provided information to the police. We will keep the victims and their families and friends in our thoughts and prayers. The hunt for a merciless killer has been difficult -- and America greatly appreciates all the good men and women who fight crime and uphold justice across this great country.

###

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

December 3, 2002

Drunk and drugged driving threatens the safety of millions of Americans. Reducing the incidence of impaired driving remains one of our Nation's greatest challenges. As we gather with family and friends to celebrate this holiday season, I urge all Americans to observe National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month by making responsible choices that will help keep our roads safer for all.

Drunk driving accidents take a life every 30 minutes and injure someone every 2 minutes. In the last 24 months, 41 percent of those killed in traffic accidents, which is almost 35,000 Americans, have been killed in alcohol-related crashes. To better protect our citizens and decrease the number of drunk and drugged driving traffic accidents, we must work together to educate our communities about the seriousness of this offense and we must raise awareness of its devastating consequences.

My Administration supports efforts to save lives and prevent injuries resulting from impaired driving. The Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) works with local law enforcement agencies that conduct sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols; and it also supports State efforts to pass legislation that increases punishment for those who drink and drive.

The NHTSA and its State and local partners are dedicated to eliminating impaired driving and stopping the associated injuries and fatalities. The NHTSA's national safety campaign -- You Drink & Drive. You Lose. -- aims to lower America's impaired driving fatality rate to less than 11,000 people per year by the year 2005. By providing its partner organizations with guidance on overcoming this national challenge, this important campaign is assisting local law enforcement agencies, community groups and organizations, public health professionals, and businesses to coordinate and address this vital issue.

As part of the You Drink & Drive. You Lose. campaign, law enforcement agencies across the Nation will be out in full force from December 20, 2002, to January 5, 2003, to stop drunk and drugged driving. During the holiday season, organizations and citizens throughout the country also will be working to prevent this deadly activity by encouraging citizens to choose sober, designated drivers, keep impaired family members and friends off our roads, report drivers who are under the influence, and educate young people about safe, alcohol- and drug-free driving behavior. Through cooperation and determination, every American can do something to make a difference and help stop impaired drivers before they harm others.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 2002 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. I call upon State and community leaders to join the You Drink & Drive. You Lose. national mobilization between December 20, 2002, and January 5, 2003. I also urge all Americans to work to enhance the safety of our Nation's roadways and protect the well-being of our drivers, passengers, and pedestrians during this holiday season and every day of the year.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

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**ADVANCING JUSTICE
THROUGH
DNA TECHNOLOGY**



MARCH 2003

Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	ii
Using DNA to Solve Crimes.....	1
Eliminating Backlogs	2
Strengthening Crime Laboratory Capacity	4
Stimulating Research and Development	6
Training the Criminal Justice Community.....	8
Using DNA to Protect the Innocent	11
Using DNA to Identify Missing Persons	13
Funding Information.....	15

Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DNA technology is increasingly vital to 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.

The current federal and state DNA collection and analysis system needs improvement. In many instances, public crime labs are overwhelmed by backlogs of unanalyzed DNA samples. In addition, these labs may be ill-equipped to handle the increasing influx of DNA samples and evidence. The problems of backlogs and the lack of up-to-date technology result in significant delays in the administration of justice. More research is needed to develop faster methods for analyzing DNA evidence. Professionals involved in the criminal justice system need additional training and assistance in order to ensure the optimal use of DNA evidence to solve crimes and assist victims. And the criminal justice system needs the means to provide DNA testing in appropriate circumstances for individuals who assert that they have been wrongly convicted.

President Bush believes we must do more to realize the full potential of DNA technology to solve crime and protect the innocent. The President has proposed \$232.6 million in federal funding in FY 2004 for his initiative, *Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology*, and calls for continuing this level of funding for five years – a total commitment of over \$1 billion. Under the President's initiative, the Attorney General will improve the use of DNA in the criminal justice system – especially in federal, state, and local forensic laboratories – by providing funds, training and assistance to ensure that this technology reaches its full potential. The President's initiative promotes:

- ✓ ***Using DNA to Solve Crimes:*** When used to its full potential, DNA technology will permit the criminal justice system to identify criminals quickly and accurately. More crimes will be solved and persons mistakenly accused or convicted of crimes will be cleared if the criminal justice system is provided with the necessary funding, technology, and assistance it needs to reap the benefits of DNA technology. Under the President's initiative, the Attorney General will:
 - ***Eliminate Backlogs:*** The initiative provides funding to eliminate, within five years, the current backlogs of unanalyzed DNA samples for the most serious violent offenses – rapes, murders, and kidnappings – and for convicted offender samples needing testing.
 - ***Strengthen Crime Laboratory Capacity:*** The initiative provides funding to improve the analysis capacity of federal, state, and local crime labs so they can process DNA samples efficiently and cost-effectively and help prevent future backlogs.

- ***Stimulate Research and Development:*** The initiative provides resources to stimulate innovative research in order to develop, among other things, more rapid and less costly methods of DNA analysis and the ability to analyze smaller and more degraded samples.
- ***Provide Training:*** The initiative provides training on the collection and use of DNA evidence to the wide variety of professionals involved in using DNA evidence in the criminal justice system – police officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, forensic scientists, medical personnel, victim service providers, corrections officers, and probation and parole officers.
- ✓ ***Using DNA to Protect the Innocent:*** Under the President's initiative, the Attorney General will advance the use of DNA technology to protect the innocent from wrongful prosecution. The initiative supports providing access to post-conviction DNA testing in appropriate circumstances for state or federal inmates who may have been wrongly convicted, and establishes a grant program to assist states in providing post-conviction testing.
- ✓ ***Using DNA to Identify Missing Persons:*** The events of September 11, 2001 demonstrated on a national scale the potential for anguish when the remains of a missing person go unidentified. In order to help provide closure for families of missing persons, the President's initiative provides education and outreach to medical examiners, coroners, law enforcement officers, and victims' families on the use of DNA to identify missing persons.

USING DNA TO SOLVE CRIMES

The past decade has seen great advances in a powerful criminal justice tool: deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA. DNA can be used to identify criminals with incredible accuracy when biological evidence exists. By the same token, DNA can be used to clear suspects and exonerate persons mistakenly accused or convicted of crimes. In all, DNA technology is increasingly vital to ensuring accuracy and fairness in the criminal justice system.

News stories extolling the successful use of DNA to solve crimes abound. For example, in 1999, New York authorities linked a man through DNA evidence to at least 22 sexual assaults and robberies that had terrorized the city. In 2002, authorities in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Fort Collins, Colorado, used DNA evidence to link and solve a series of crimes (rapes and a murder) perpetrated by the same individual. In the 2001 "Green River" killings, DNA evidence provided a major breakthrough in a series of crimes that had remained unsolved for years despite a large law enforcement task force and a \$15 million investigation.

DNA is generally used to solve crimes in one of two ways. In cases where a suspect is identified, a sample of that person's DNA can be compared to evidence from the crime scene. The results of this comparison may help establish whether the suspect committed the crime. In cases where a suspect has not yet been identified, biological evidence from the crime scene can be analyzed and compared to offender profiles in DNA databases to help identify the perpetrator. Crime scene evidence can also be linked to other crime scenes through the use of DNA databases.

For example, assume that a man was convicted of sexual assault. At the time of his conviction, he was required to provide a sample of his DNA, and the resulting DNA profile was entered into a DNA database. Several years later, another sexual assault was committed. A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner worked with the victim and was able to obtain biological evidence from the rape. This evidence was analyzed, the resulting profile was run against a DNA database, and a match was made to the man's DNA profile. He was apprehended, tried, and sentenced for his second crime. In this hypothetical case, he was also prevented from committing other crimes during the period of his incarceration.

DNA evidence is generally linked to DNA offender profiles through DNA databases. In the late 1980s, the federal government laid the groundwork for a system of national, state, and local DNA databases for the storage and exchange of DNA profiles. This system, called the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), maintains DNA profiles obtained under the federal, state, and local systems in a set of databases that are available to law enforcement agencies across the country for law enforcement purposes. CODIS can compare crime scene evidence to a database of DNA profiles obtained from convicted offenders. CODIS can also link DNA evidence obtained from different crime scenes, thereby identifying serial criminals.

In order to take advantage of the investigative potential of CODIS, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, states began passing laws requiring offenders convicted of certain offenses to provide DNA samples. Currently all 50 states and the federal government have laws requiring that DNA samples be collected from some categories of offenders.

When used to its full potential, DNA evidence will help solve and may even prevent some of the Nation's most serious violent crimes. However, the current federal and state DNA collection and analysis system needs improvement:

- (1) In many instances, public crime labs are overwhelmed by backlogs of unanalyzed DNA samples.
- (2) In addition, these labs may be ill-equipped to handle the increasing influx of DNA samples and evidence. The problems of backlogs and lack of up-to-date technology result in significant delays in the administration of justice.
- (3) More research is needed to develop faster methods for analyzing DNA evidence.
- (4) Professionals working in the criminal justice system need additional training and assistance in order to ensure the optimal use of DNA evidence to solve crimes and assist victims.

President Bush believes we must do more to realize the full potential of DNA technology to solve crime and protect the innocent. Under the President's initiative, the Attorney General will improve the use of DNA in the criminal justice system by providing funds and assistance to ensure that this technology reaches its full potential to solve crimes.

1. Eliminating Backlogs

One of the biggest problems facing the criminal justice system today is the substantial backlog of unanalyzed DNA samples and biological evidence from crime scenes, especially in sexual assault and murder cases. Too often, crime scene samples wait unanalyzed in police or crime lab storage facilities. Timely analysis of these samples and placement into DNA databases can avert tragic results. For example, in 1995, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement linked evidence found on a rape-homicide victim to a convicted rapist's DNA profile just eight days before he was scheduled for parole. Had he been released prior to being linked to the unsolved rape-homicide, he may very well have raped or murdered again.

By contrast, analysis and placement into CODIS of DNA profiles can dramatically enhance the chances that potential crime victims will be spared the violence of vicious, repeat offenders. The President's initiative calls for \$92.9 million to help alleviate the current backlogs of DNA samples for the most serious violent offenses – rapes, murders, and kidnappings – and for convicted offender samples needing testing. With this additional federal backlog reduction funding, the funding provided by this initiative to improve crime laboratory capacity, and continued support from the states, the current backlogs will be eliminated in five years.

Understanding the Backlog

The state and local backlog problem has two components: (1) "*casework sample backlogs*," which consist of DNA samples obtained from crime scenes, victims, and suspects in

criminal cases, and (2) *“convicted offender backlogs,”* which consist of DNA samples obtained from convicted offenders who are incarcerated or under supervision. The nature of the DNA backlog is complex and changing, and measuring the precise number of unanalyzed DNA samples is difficult.

- **Casework Sample Backlogs:** In a 2001 survey of public DNA laboratories, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) found that between 1997 and 2000, DNA laboratories experienced a 73% increase in casework and a 135% increase in their casework backlogs. Many casework samples go unanalyzed for lack of a suspect to which to compare the biological evidence from the crime scene. These are often referred to as “no-suspect” cases. Based on an ongoing assessment of crime laboratories and law enforcement agencies, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) estimates that the current backlog of rape and homicide cases is approximately 350,000. The initiative calls for \$76 million in FY 2004 to help eliminate these backlogs over five years.
- **Convicted Offender Backlogs:** States are increasing the number of convicted offenders required to provide DNA samples. Currently, 23 states require all convicted felons to provide DNA samples. Preliminary estimates by NIJ place the number of collected, untested convicted offender samples at between 200,000 and 300,000. NIJ also estimates that there are between 500,000 and 1,000,000 convicted offender samples that are owed, but not yet collected. The initiative calls for \$15 million in FY 2004 to help eliminate convicted offender backlogs over five years.

The federal government also faces a high demand for analysis of casework and convicted offender DNA samples. The FBI has two DNA casework analysis units (see page 5). The first unit, which focuses on analyzing nuclear DNA, has a backlog of approximately 900 cases. The second unit, which focuses on analyzing mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), has a backlog of roughly 120 cases.

The federal government also collects DNA samples from persons convicted of offenses in certain categories, including crimes of violence or terrorism. The FBI currently has a backlog of approximately 18,000 convicted offender samples. The initiative calls for \$1.9 million in FY 2004 to fund the federal convicted offender program; some of these funds will be devoted to eliminating the federal convicted offender backlog.

Effect of Clearing the Backlog

The results of addressing backlogs are dramatic, as the two examples below illustrate:

- In September 1993, a married couple was attacked on a jogging trail in Dallas by a man with a gun who sexually assaulted the woman after shooting the man. No suspect was ever positively identified, although police investigated over 200 leads and 40 potential suspects. In August 2000, evidence from the case was analyzed using current DNA technology. Then, in February 2001, the DNA sample was matched to an individual who was already serving a five-year sentence for an unrelated 1997 sexual assault of a child. The man has since been convicted of capital murder and aggravated sexual assault.

- In March 1992, an Alexandria, Virginia shop owner was stabbed more than 150 times in her home. There were no witnesses to the crime. For years, detectives had no leads, but they did have traces of someone's blood, apparently from the fierce struggle between the victim and the killer. Meanwhile, in 1996, a man pleaded guilty to robbing a gas station, and his DNA was collected for analysis and inclusion in the Virginia DNA database. Because of the backlog, the man's sample was not immediately analyzed. In the summer of 2000, the sample was analyzed and matched through the database to the evidence from the Alexandria woman's murder. In April 2001, almost nine years after the commission of this brutal crime, the man was sentenced to life in prison.

Several law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, and crime labs across the country have established innovative programs to review old cases. Often called "cold case units," these programs have enabled criminal justice officials to solve cases that have languished for years without suspects. Most frequently, DNA evidence has been the linchpin in solving these cases. For instance, this past July, a California man was found guilty of the 1974 rape-homicide of a 19 year-old pregnant woman – a case that was solved through DNA evidence nearly thirty years after the crime was committed.

Prior Federal Support of State DNA Backlog Reduction

In recent years, the federal government has strongly supported states in their efforts to eliminate backlogs of convicted offender and casework DNA samples. Since the creation in 2000 of the Department of Justice's (DOJ's) Convicted Offender DNA Backlog Reduction Program, more than 493,600 offender samples from 24 states have been analyzed. Since the creation in 2001 of the No Suspect Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Program, federal funds have been provided to support the analysis of approximately 24,800 cases. States have analyzed evidence in an additional 18,000 "no-suspect" cases as a result of a match requirement of Convicted Offender DNA Backlog Reduction funding.

In 2002 and 2003 combined, the President requested and Congress appropriated \$70.8 million to fund these DNA backlog reduction programs. Additionally, Attorney General John Ashcroft also made available \$25 million in Asset Forfeiture funds to address the backlog of convicted offender and "no suspect" casework samples. Thus, the Bush Administration already has devoted more than \$95 million to reducing DNA backlogs.

2. *Strengthening Crime Laboratory Capacity*

At present, many of our Nation's crime laboratories do not have the capacity necessary to analyze DNA samples in a timely fashion. Many have limited equipment resources, outdated information systems, and overwhelming case management demands. As a result, the criminal justice system as a whole is unable to reap the full benefits of DNA technology. The President's initiative will provide federal funding to further automate and improve the infrastructure of federal, state, and local crime labs so they can process DNA samples efficiently and cost-effectively. These infrastructure improvements are critical to preventing future DNA backlogs, and to helping the criminal justice system realize the full potential of DNA technology.

Increasing the Analysis Capacity of Public Crime Labs

The President's initiative will provide significant support to public crime labs so that these labs can update their infrastructure, automate their DNA analysis procedures, and improve their retention and storage of forensic evidence. The initiative calls for \$60 million in FY 2004 funding, which will be dedicated to:

- Providing Basic Infrastructure Support: Some public crime laboratories still need assistance to help them obtain equipment and material to conduct the basic processes of DNA analysis – extraction, quantitation, amplification and analysis – and to help them meet various accreditation requirements.
- Building Infrastructure through Laboratory Information Management Systems: Laboratory Information Management Systems, or "LIMS," are designed to automate evidence handling and casework management, to improve the integrity and speed of evidence handling procedures, and to ensure proper chain of custody. DOJ estimates that only 10 percent of the public DNA laboratories have LIMS systems.
- Providing Automation Tools to Public DNA Laboratories: To streamline aspects of the DNA analysis procedure that are labor and time-intensive, crime laboratories should have automated systems, such as robotic DNA extraction units. Automated DNA analysis systems increase analyst productivity, limit human error and reduce contamination.
- Providing Support for the Retention and Storage of Forensic Evidence: Forensic evidence must be stored in a manner that ensures its integrity and maintains its availability throughout criminal investigations and judicial proceedings. Appropriate evidence storage conditions require costly equipment such as security systems, environmental control systems, ambient temperature monitors, and de-humidifiers. The initiative will support the improvement of evidence storage capabilities.

Funding the FBI Forensic Analysis Programs

The FBI Laboratory runs several different programs for the analysis of DNA information. The Nuclear DNA Program supports federal, state, local, and international law enforcement agencies by providing advanced technical assistance within the forensic biology discipline and sub-disciplines through interrelated capabilities and expertise. The Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) Analysis Program is responsible for performing mtDNA analysis of forensic evidence containing small or degraded quantities of DNA on items of evidence submitted from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Mitochondrial DNA is a powerful tool available for investigating cases of kidnapping, missing persons, and skeletal remains where nuclear DNA is not present. The initiative will provide funds to these two existing programs to permit them to continue their important work. In addition, the initiative will provide funds to the FBI to further expand regional mtDNA labs that will provide an alternative source for mtDNA analysis to state and local law enforcement, and allow the FBI laboratory to concentrate more of its efforts on federal cases. The initiative calls for \$20.5 million in FY 2004 to fund these programs.

Funding the Combined DNA Index System

The Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), administered by the FBI, maintains DNA profiles obtained through federal, state, and local DNA sample collection programs, and makes this information available to law enforcement agencies across the country for law enforcement identification purposes. Currently, the National DNA Index System (NDIS) of CODIS contains about 1.7 million DNA profiles. The President's initiative includes funding to complete a general redesign and upgrade of CODIS, which will increase the system's capacity to 50 million DNA profiles, reduce the search time from hours to microseconds for matching DNA profiles, and enable instant, real-time (as opposed to weekly) searches of the database by participating forensic laboratories. The initiative calls for \$9.9 million in FY 2004 to fund this program.

3. *Stimulating Research And Development*

In order to improve the use of DNA technology to advance the cause of justice, the Attorney General will stimulate research and development of new methods of analyzing DNA samples under the President's initiative. Also, the President has asked the Attorney General to establish demonstration projects under the initiative to further study the public safety and law enforcement benefits of fully integrating the use of DNA technology to solve crimes. Finally, the President has directed the Attorney General to create a National Forensic Science Commission to study rapidly evolving advances in all areas of the forensic sciences and to make recommendations to maximize the use of the forensic sciences in the criminal justice system. In all, the President's initiative will devote \$24.8 million in FY 2004 to fund advances in the use of DNA technology.

Improving DNA Technology

Forensic DNA analysis is rapidly evolving. Research and development of tools that will permit crime laboratories to conduct DNA analysis quickly is vital to the goal of improving the timely analysis of DNA samples. Smaller, faster, and less costly analysis tools will reduce capital investments for crime laboratories while increasing their capacity to process more cases. Over the course of the next several years, DNA research efforts will focus on the following areas:

- The development of "DNA chip technology" that uses nanotechnology to improve both speed and resolution of DNA evidence analysis. This technology will reduce analysis time from several hours to several minutes and provide cost-effective miniaturized components.
- The development of more robust methods to enable more crime labs to have greater success in the analysis of degraded, old, or compromised items of biological evidence.
- Advanced applications of various DNA analysis methods, such as automated Short Tandem Repeats (STRs), Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs), mitochondrial DNA analysis (mtDNA), and Y-chromosome DNA analysis.

- The use of animal, plant, and microbial DNA to provide leads that may link DNA found on or near human perpetrators or victims to the actual perpetrator of the crime.
- Technologies that will enable DNA identification of vast numbers of samples occasioned by a mass disaster or mass fatality incident.
- Technologies that permit better separation of minute traces of male sexual assailant DNA from female victims.

The initiative devotes \$10 million in FY 2004 funding to benefit the state and local criminal justice community through DNA research and development. It also requests \$9.8 million in FY 2004 funding to further expand the FBI's DNA research and development program.

Establishing DNA Demonstration Projects

To further research the impact of increased DNA evidence collection on public safety and law enforcement operations, the Attorney General will conduct rigorous scientific research through demonstration projects on the use of DNA evidence under the initiative. This research will help determine the scope of public safety benefits that result when police are trained to more effectively collect DNA evidence and prosecutors are provided with training to enhance their ability to present this evidence in court.

Several jurisdictions will be selected to incorporate core training and evidence collection requirements in their daily operations. At each site, one or more law enforcement agencies will be chosen to implement extensive training on the collection of DNA evidence and to increase the resources devoted to the investigation and prosecution of these cases. Prosecutors will also receive training on how to more effectively present DNA evidence and how forensic DNA technology may be used to solve current and "cold" cases. Jurisdictions that received increased training and resources will be compared with jurisdictions that did not receive these benefits.

The resulting comparison will measure the impact of increased DNA evidence collection on public safety and law enforcement operations. For example, projects will examine whether there are increased crime clearance rates, whether DNA aided investigations, the number of cases successfully prosecuted, the number of cases where guilty pleas were obtained due to the presence of DNA evidence, any financial savings resulting from the use of forensic evidence, and increased responsiveness to victims. The information obtained will allow state and local governments to make more informed decisions regarding investment in forensic DNA as a crime-fighting tool. The initiative calls for \$4.5 million in FY 2004 to fund these projects.

Creating a National Forensic Science Commission

To facilitate the ability of policymakers to assess the needs of the forensic science community, and to stimulate public awareness of the uses of forensic technology to solve crimes, the President has directed the Attorney General to create a National Forensic Science Commission. The Commission will be charged with two primary responsibilities: (1) developing

recommendations for long-term strategies to maximize the use of current forensic technologies to solve crimes and protect the public, and (2) identifying potential scientific breakthroughs that may be used to assist law enforcement.

The Attorney General will appoint Commission members from professional forensic science organizations and accreditation bodies and from the criminal justice community. These individuals will have broad knowledge and in-depth expertise in the criminal justice system and in various areas of the forensic sciences such as analytical toxicology, trace evidence, forensic biology, firearms and toolmark examinations, latent fingerprints, crime scene analysis, digital evidence, and forensic pathology, in addition to DNA. Judges, prosecutors, attorneys, victim advocates, and other members of the criminal justice system will also be represented on the Commission.

The Commission will study advances in all areas of the forensic sciences and make recommendations on how new and existing technologies can be used to improve public safety. The Commission will also serve as an ongoing forum for discussing initiatives and policy, and may issue recommendations that will assist state and local law enforcement agencies in the cost-effective use of these technologies to solve crimes. The initiative devotes \$500,000 in FY 2004 to the establishment of the Commission.

4. Training the Criminal Justice Community

In order to maximize the use of DNA technology, under the President's initiative, the Attorney General will develop training and provide assistance regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence to the wide variety of professionals involved in the criminal justice system including police officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, forensic scientists, medical personnel, victim service providers, corrections officers, and probation and parole officers.

Key players in the criminal justice system should receive additional training in the proper collection, preservation, and use of DNA evidence. Fundamental knowledge of the capabilities of DNA technology is essential for police officers to collect evidence properly, prosecutors and defense attorneys to introduce and use it successfully in court, and judges to rule correctly on its admissibility. Victim service providers and medical personnel likewise need to understand DNA technology in order to encourage more successful evidence collection and to be fully responsive to the needs of victims.

Law Enforcement Training

As the first responders to crime scenes, law enforcement officers should be able to identify, collect and preserve probative biological evidence for submission to crime laboratories. Improper collection can mean that valuable evidence is missed or rendered unsuitable for testing. The initiative devotes \$3.5 million in FY 2004 to assist law enforcement in meeting the following training needs:

- Basic "awareness training" on DNA evidence for patrol officers and other first-responders;

- Intensive training on identifying, collecting, and preserving potential DNA evidence for evidence technicians, investigators, and others processing crime scenes;
- Training and education for investigators and responding officers on DNA databases and their potential to provide leads in current and "cold" cases; and
- Training and information for law enforcement leadership and policymakers to facilitate more informed decisions about effective DNA evidence collection and testing.

Training Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys, and Judges

In order to achieve just results in cases involving DNA evidence, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges should receive proper training on the use and presentation of DNA evidence. The initiative devotes \$2.5 million in FY 2004 to support:

- Training and technical assistance for prosecutors to learn about solving "cold cases" with DNA evidence, responding to post-conviction DNA testing requests, and developing innovative legal strategies to optimize the power of forensic DNA technology. Grant funds will be available for state and local prosecutors' organizations for the development and delivery of training materials to assist prosecutors in presenting this evidence before courts and juries, and in understanding more about the value of DNA evidence in particular cases.
- Training for defense counsel handling cases involving biological evidence on the applications and limitations of DNA evidence. Grant funds will be made available to continuing legal education programs or bar associations to provide training and resources on forensic DNA technology.
- Training for judges, who must be equipped with sufficient technical and scientific knowledge to make appropriate rulings in cases involving DNA evidence. Grant funds will be available to national judicial conferences and organizations.

Training For Probation and Parole Officers and Corrections Personnel

Probation and parole officers play a critical role in ensuring that offenders are complying with their statutory obligations to provide DNA samples. Corrections personnel often are responsible for obtaining DNA samples from inmates required by law to submit such samples. Through training and education programs, these professionals will be better equipped to ensure that samples are taken from all individuals who are required by law to provide them. The initiative calls for \$1 million in FY 2004 to support this training.

Training for Forensic Scientists

The forensic science community has a critical need for trained forensic scientists in public crime laboratories. The initiative will assist the development of comprehensive training

programs for a new generation of forensic scientists, enabling new forensic scientists to receive in-depth training to prepare them for analyzing actual casework in a crime laboratory. The initiative calls for \$3 million in FY 2004 to support this training.

Training for Medical Personnel

The initiative will also provide \$5 million in FY 2004 to support the development of training and educational materials for doctors and nurses involved in treating victims of sexual assault. Trained medical personnel are needed to effectively collect usable DNA evidence, while safeguarding the privacy rights and addressing the needs of rape victims requiring sexual assault exams. These programs will specifically target underserved areas of the country. Funding may also be used to support the development of SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner), SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner), and SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) programs.

Training for Victim Service Providers

Victims and those who advocate on their behalf must have access to information about the investigative and courtroom uses of forensic DNA evidence. Victims should be properly informed about how DNA evidence may impact their cases. In situations involving post-conviction DNA testing, victim service providers must be able to assist victims through the often-painful process of newly-ordered DNA tests and re-opened court proceedings. To address the concerns of victims, the initiative would develop additional DNA education and training programs for victim advocates and victim service providers so that they may better assist victims in all cases involving DNA evidence. The initiative calls for \$5 million in FY 2004 to support this training.

USING DNA TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT

DNA technology is increasingly vital to ensuring fairness in the criminal justice system. Every effort that is made to reduce backlogs of untested evidence, to better equip forensic laboratories, to develop faster methods of analyzing samples, and to better train professionals in the use of DNA technology, will improve the accuracy of the criminal justice system. Accordingly, the measures described in the previous sections will not only help solve crimes and keep dangerous offenders off the streets, but will also help minimize the risk that innocent individuals are wrongly accused or convicted.

Post-conviction DNA testing has received considerable attention in recent years. Since the advent of forensic DNA analysis, a number of individuals convicted of crimes have been subsequently exonerated through DNA analysis of crime scene evidence that was not tested at the time of trial. The following are two recent reported examples:

- In February 2003, a Hampton Roads, Virginia man was released from prison after post-conviction DNA tests proved that he did not rape a nursing student in 1981. The man had spent two decades in prison after being convicted of breaking into the woman's apartment and raping her. Two juries failed to reach a verdict, but a third jury found him guilty. From the time of his arrest, however, the man maintained his innocence. Last year, a Virginia crime lab located evidence in the man's case in a file maintained by a forensic scientist who had since died. DNA tests conducted on this evidence proved that he was not the perpetrator, and have preliminarily linked the crime scene evidence to a felon whose DNA sample was maintained in the Virginia DNA database. The Norfolk Commonwealth Attorney supported the man's immediate release from prison after learning of the DNA test result. Law enforcement authorities are following up on the "cold hit."
- A Maryland man served 20 years of a 30-year sentence after being convicted of a 1982 home invasion rape of a schoolteacher. Through post-conviction DNA testing, the man was exonerated in 2002. When the crime scene profile was uploaded to CODIS, it was preliminarily linked to a felon whose DNA profile was maintained in a DNA database. This man has subsequently been arrested and charged for the 1982 crime, and is awaiting trial later this year. The original defendant was pardoned in January 2003.

Many states have already enacted provisions that allow convicted offenders in certain cases to seek post-conviction DNA testing of evidence collected in those cases. Currently, 31 states have enacted special statutory provisions providing post-conviction DNA testing, and additional states make post-conviction testing available through other procedures. Federal law also should provide for post-conviction DNA testing in appropriate cases.

To demonstrate support for appropriate post-conviction testing of DNA evidence, the Attorney General will create a \$5 million grant program under the President's initiative to help states defray the costs of post-conviction DNA testing. In order to receive this funding, state programs will be required to meet criteria established by the Department of Justice. These criteria will require that DNA testing be performed by an accredited forensic laboratory, and will

encourage states to develop plans that ensure prompt DNA testing of persons who may be wrongly convicted and discourage frivolous testing that may cause unnecessary expense and needless harm to crime victims.

USING DNA TO IDENTIFY MISSING PERSONS

Families of missing persons who are presumed dead face tremendous emotional turmoil when they are unable to learn about the fates of their loved ones. The events of September 11, 2001 demonstrated on a national scale the potential for anguish when the remains of a missing person go unidentified. In the wake of this tragedy, the Department of Justice brought together DNA experts from across the country to develop improved DNA analysis methods identifying the World Trade Center victims.

Despite tremendous scientific advancements, DNA technology is not routinely used in missing persons cases. According to statistics maintained by the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC), there are nearly 5,000 reported unidentified persons in the United States. This element of the President's initiative will help identify the missing, and in doing so, will provide an increased sense of closure to their families.

The FBI's Missing Persons DNA Database Program currently provides the essential infrastructure for identifying human remains. This database maintains two indices of DNA samples. The first index contains DNA profiles of relatives of missing persons and the second contains DNA profiles of unidentified human remains. Successful identifications require that both profiles be entered. Currently, this database is not used to its full potential. States have only recently begun to conduct DNA analysis on human remains and to submit the results to the FBI for inclusion in its database. Many unidentified human remains continue to be disposed of without the collection of DNA samples. Further, even when the samples are collected, many crime labs lack the capacity to conduct timely analysis, especially where the biological sample is old or degraded. In addition, many family members and law enforcement officials lack sufficient information about the existence of the program and how to participate.

The President's initiative will help ensure that DNA forensic technology is used to its full potential to identify missing persons. The initiative will:

- Provide outreach and education to medical examiners, coroners, and law enforcement officers about the use of DNA to identify human remains and to aid in missing persons cases;
- Make DNA reference collection kits available to these state and local officials;
- Support the development of educational materials and outreach programs for families of missing children and adults;
- Encourage states to collect DNA samples before any unidentified remains are disposed;
- Strengthen crime lab capacity (see page 4) to enable more state and local labs to conduct timely DNA analysis of biological samples from unidentified human remains;
- Provide for the analysis of degraded and old biological samples through the FBI's Mitochondrial DNA Analysis Program (see page 5);

- Provide technical assistance to state and local crime labs and medical examiners on the collection and analysis of degraded remains through the FBI and the National Institute of Justice; and
- Support research and development of more robust methods for analyzing degraded, old, or compromised biological samples (see page 6).

The President's initiative will devote \$2 million in FY 2004 for outreach programs and the development of educational materials and reference collection kits.

FUNDING

The President's DNA Initiative, *Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology*, calls for \$232.6 million in federal funding for FY 2004. This includes \$100.7 million in new funding. In addition, as part of the \$232.6 million, the Justice Department is targeting \$13.5 million in FY 2004 funding from existing programs within the Office of Justice Programs to support the DNA Initiative.*

Element of the Initiative	2004 Budget Request (millions of dollars)
USING DNA TO SOLVE CRIMES	
<i>Eliminating Backlogs</i>	\$92.9
State Casework Backlogs	\$76.0
State Convicted Offender Backlogs	\$15.0
Funding the Federal Convicted Offender Program	\$1.9
<i>Strengthening Crime Lab Capacity</i>	\$90.4
Increasing the Analysis Capacity of Public Crime Labs	\$60.0
Funding FBI Forensic Analysis Programs	\$20.5
Funding the Combined DNA Index System	\$9.9
<i>Stimulating Research and Development</i>	\$24.8
Improving DNA Technology	\$10.0
FBI Research and Development	\$9.8
DNA Demonstration Projects	\$4.5
The National Forensic Science Commission	\$0.5
<i>Training the Criminal Justice Community</i>	\$17.5
Law Enforcement	\$3.5
Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys, and Judges	\$2.5
Probation & Parole Officers, Corrections Personnel	\$1.0
Forensic Scientists	\$3.0
Medical Personnel	\$5.0
Victim Service Providers	\$2.5
USING DNA TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT	\$5.0
USING DNA TO IDENTIFY MISSING PERSONS	\$2.0
TOTAL FUNDING	\$232.6

* These funds must be used in accordance with the applicable programs' authorizing statutes.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2003
By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

March 26, 2003

Our nation has an important responsibility to create a caring environment in which our children can flourish and reach their full potential. As we observe the 20th anniversary of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we recognize the significant progress we have made to increase the safety and security of our children. We also renew our commitment to protecting our most vulnerable citizens from harm. Child abuse and neglect are national tragedies, and we must work together to eradicate them.

Every day, thousands of children are mistreated by their parents, guardians, relatives, or caregivers. On average, three children a day die as a result of abuse and neglect, and countless others remain silent, their pain unnoticed and unreported. These children face challenges that no child deserves, and young people who have experienced abuse may grow into adults who are self-destructive and damaging to our communities. To help these children become healthy and happy adults, parents and caregivers must provide them with love, security, emotional support, and a strong connection to their extended families and communities.

To help ensure the safety and well-being of our children, my Administration is committed to supporting and strengthening families. In the last year, we have worked with faith-based and community organizations to promote healthy marriages, responsible fatherhood, and partnerships that seek to prevent child abuse and neglect. We also worked with the Congress to reauthorize the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program. This year, we are asking the Congress to fully fund this program at \$505 million, an increase of more than 65 percent. In addition, we are working with the Congress to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. This important legislation will provide funding to States for child abuse prevention activities and other vital programs.

Every child is a blessing. Through the cooperation of Federal, State, and local governments, faith-based and community organizations, schools, law enforcement, and health and human service agencies, we can develop and enhance successful prevention strategies that protect our young people. In addition, we must continue to recognize the spirit of compassion in individuals and community groups across our Nation that offer care, guidance, and support for young people, parents, and caregivers. By working together, we can put hope in our children's hearts and ensure healthy and safe lives for all our children.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2003 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I encourage all Americans to join together to support strong families, protect our children from abuse, neglect, and maltreatment, and make our Nation a more promising place for all.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

Statement by the President

March 27, 2003

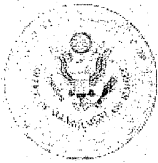
As we take steps abroad to make the world a safer place for all, there are important steps we can take at home to make America a safer place for children.

I commend the House for acting today on legislation that will help expand, enhance, and coordinate the successful Amber Alert system across our nation. I look forward to legislation reaching my desk as quickly as possible so that I may sign it into law.

The prevention and investigation of child abductions will always be a top priority in my administration. That is why my administration began taking steps last year to expand and improve the Amber Alert system, including allocating existing federal resources to this effort and appointing a federal coordinator within the Department of Justice.

Protecting our children is a shared priority for the American people and federal, state and local authorities. We must use every resource possible to find and safely return missing children to their families and their homes, just as we will continue to use every tool within the law to vigorously prosecute and severely punish those who would do our children harm.

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

April 9, 2003
(House Floor)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

(THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN COORDINATED BY OMB WITH THE CONCERNED AGENCIES.)

H.R. 1036 - Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act

(Rep. Stearns (R) Florida and 251 cosponsors)

The Administration strongly supports House passage of H.R. 1036. The manufacturer or seller of a legal, non-defective product should not be held liable for the criminal or unlawful misuse of that product by others. H.R. 1036 would help prevent abuse of the legal system and help curb the growing problem of frivolous lawsuits in the United States. At the same time, the legislation would carefully preserve the right of individuals to have their day in court with civil liability actions. These civil actions are enumerated in the bill and respect the traditional role of the States in our Federal system with regard to such actions.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2003
By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

April 4, 2003

Crime brings trauma, pain, and insecurity into the lives of too many Americans each year. As we work to reduce crime and protect the rights of the accused, we must take equal care to protect the rights of their victims. During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we remember those who have suffered as a result of crime and honor those who have helped these victims.

Americans suffered over 24 million crimes in 2001, 5.7 million of which involved violence. While we have improved policies and our justice system has treated victims with greater respect in recent years, we must continue our work to ensure the full rights of all crime victims and better protect our citizens. My Administration believes that victims of violent crime have important rights that deserve protection in our Constitution, and to guarantee these rights, I strongly support the passage of the bipartisan Crime Victims' Rights Amendment. This amendment will provide victims of violent crime the right to reasonable and timely notice of any public proceedings involving the crime or release of the perpetrator, and the right to be heard at public proceedings regarding the criminal's sentence or potential release. It will also assure that such victims receive timely notice of any escape of their attacker. Under this amendment, decision makers will duly consider the victim's safety and payment of restitution from the offender to the victim. This important amendment will strike the right balance in protecting individual rights and ensuring fairness and equity in our criminal justice system.

Across our Nation, victims' rights groups work on behalf of victims every day. Through care and compassion, these groups and individuals are bringing hope and comfort to their neighbors in need. Domestic violence shelters, support groups for families of homicide victims, rape crisis centers, and other organizations in our cities and communities offer vital assistance to individuals who have been affected by crime. In times of such crises, counselors, hotline operators, clergy, doctors, nurses, law enforcement, and countless others also help their fellow Americans cope with their pain and suffering.

As a Nation, we must continue to seek justice on behalf of all people who have been victimized by crime. The heroes in these efforts are the individuals and organizations who work to provide valuable support and assistance to those who have suffered from crime. This week allows us to recognize these heroes and renew our commitment to fulfilling the promise of our Nation of justice for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 6 through April 12, 2003, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I encourage every community to embrace the cause of victims' rights and to advance it in all sectors of our society.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

President Signs PROTECT Act

President's Remarks Upon Signing of S. 151, the Protect Act

April 30, 2003

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks a lot for the warm welcome, and welcome to the Rose Garden in the White House. What a beautiful day. I'm glad you all are here and I'm pleased that you could join us on a day a vital piece of legislation becomes the law of the land.

I appreciate the hard work of the Congress. I want to thank the members of the Congress, the Senate, who are here and the members of the House of Representatives who are here. I want to thank you all for your very hard work in getting this bill to my desk as quickly as you did. (Applause.)

This law, the Protect Act of 2003, will greatly assist law enforcement in tracking criminals who would harm our children, and will greatly help in rescuing the youngest victims of crime. With my signature, this new law will formally establish the federal government's role in the Amber Alert system and will make punishment for federal crimes against children more severe.

This law carries forward a fundamental responsibility of public officials at every level of government to do everything we can to protect the most vulnerable citizens from dangerous offenders who prey on them.

I want to thank our Attorney General, John Ashcroft, for his leadership on this issue. He is strong, he is steady and he will see to it that this law is executed in its fullest. (Applause.)

I appreciate so very much Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, who worked hard to make sure this bill encompassed a lot; that it fulfilled a lot; that it met the aspirations of those who are anxious to make sure our children are protected. Chairman, you did fine work; thank you very much. (Applause.)

I appreciate the members of your committee who are here today, and I appreciate the fact that Chairman, Senator Orrin Hatch is with us, as well, who shepherded the bill through the United States Senate in record time. Mr. Chairman, thank you for your hard work, as well. (Applause.)

I appreciate my friend, the governor of Connecticut, Johnny Rowland, being with us today. Johnny, thank you; thank you for your concerns about the children of the state of Ohio -- of Connecticut. (Applause.)

The Attorney General, Jerry Kilgore, is here from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Attorney General, thanks for coming. (Applause.)

Of course it's always good to see the mayor. The mayor of Washington, D.C., Anthony Williams. There are no potholes in front of the White House today. (Laughter and applause.) It's good to see you, Mr. Mayor.

Also with us today are some families who understand better than most the need for this law. In your great suffering and loss, you have found the courage to come to the defense of all children. Because of you, this critical measure is now becoming law. Because of you, children and parents you may never meet will be spared from the harm and anguish your families have known. We are honored to have you all here today. (Applause.)

When a child is reported missing, that case becomes the matter of the most intensive and focused efforts by law enforcement. Entire communities join in the search. And through unrelenting efforts, many children have been saved.

Amber Alerts have become an increasingly important tool in rescuing kidnapped children, by quickly getting key information about the missing child and information about the suspect out into the public through radio broadcasts or highway signs or other means. An Amber Alert adds thousands of citizens to the search in the crucial early hours.

At present, statewide Amber Alert systems exist in 41 states. The bill I will sign this afternoon authorizes matching grants to those and other states to help ensure that we have effective Amber Alerts wherever they are needed.

Last year, at my direction, Attorney General John Ashcroft appointed an Amber Alert coordinator to oversee this nationwide effort. This new law formally establishes that position and empowers the coordinator to set clear and uniform voluntary standards for the use of Amber Alerts across our country.

It is important to expand the Amber Alert systems so police and sheriffs' departments gain thousands or even millions of allies in the search for missing children. Every person who would think of abducting a child can know that a wide net will be cast. They may be found by a police cruiser, or by the car right next to them on a highway. These criminals can know that any driver they pass could be the one that spots them and brings them to justice.

This is exactly what happened last summer in California, when several drivers heard an Amber Alert over the radio and soon passed a vehicle meeting the description they heard. Within hours, two teenage girls were rescued, and their abductor cornered by the police. We're so happy these two young ladies are healthy and with us today, Tamara Brooks and Jacqueline Marris. (Applause.)

Tamara's brother is somewhere around here. He showed me -- guess what happened to him today? One, he brings his little sister to the White House. And, secondly, today he was accepted to West Point. (Applause.) He's following in the footsteps of two older sisters. (Applause.)

The new law also confronts an evil that is too often a cause of child abuse and abduction in America -- the evil of child pornography. In the past, prosecutors have been hindered by not having all the tools needed to prosecute criminals who create child pornography. Under the Protect Act, we've seen images of children, even those created with computer technology, will now be illegal, giving prosecutors an important new tool. (Applause.) Obscene images of children, no matter how they are made, incite abuse, raise the dangers to children and will not be tolerated in America. (Applause.)

The new law will also strengthen federal penalties for child kidnapping and other crimes against the young. Judges will now have the authority to require longer supervision of sex offenders who are released from prison. And certain repeat sex offenders in our society will now face life behind bars, so they can never do harm again. (Applause.)

In addition, this law creates important pilot programs to help nonprofit organizations which deal with children to obtain quick and complete criminal background information on volunteers. Listen, mentoring programs are essential for our country, and we must make sure they are safe for the children they serve. (Applause.)

Amber Hagerman, whose mom is with us today -- a good Texan, I might add -- (applause) -- was nine years old when she was taken away from her parents. We are acting today in her memory, and in the memory of so many other girls and boys who lost their lives in innocence and acts of cruelty.

No child should ever have to experience the terror of abduction, or worse. No family should ever have to endure the nightmare of losing a child. Our nation grieves with every family that has suffered unbearable loss. And our nation will fight threats against our children.

This law marks important progress in the protection of America's children. And now it is my honor to sign the Protect Act of 2003. (Applause.)

(The Protect Act of 2003 was signed.) (Applause.)

###

President's Signing Statement

Today I have signed into law S. 151, the "Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003," also known as the PROTECT Act. This important legislation gives law enforcement authorities valuable new tools to deter, detect, investigate, prosecute, and punish crimes against America's children. In particular, the Act builds upon my Administration's ongoing efforts to expand and improve the AMBER Alert program to combat child abduction, strengthens laws against child pornography, and addresses deficiencies in Federal sentencing policies and practices.

The executive branch shall construe section 108(d)(3) of the Act, which calls for the Attorney General to submit recommendations to the Congress, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to submit for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

Section 401(l)(2) of the Act calls for a report to certain committees of the Congress by the Attorney General concerning prosecutorial actions, including the basis on which the Solicitor General decides, in particular cases involving departures from sentencing guidelines, whether or not to authorize an appeal. Were this provision to take effect, the executive branch would implement it in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair the deliberative processes of the Executive or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties.

GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE,

April 30, 2003.

###

Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

May 9, 2003

Every day across the country, from our largest cities to our quietest crossroads, peace officers stand watch over our citizens, selflessly risking their lives to protect individuals, families, neighborhoods, and property against crime. This week, we salute these men and women for their courage, commitment, and service, and we honor those who have fallen in the line of duty. We also reaffirm our commitment to supporting law enforcement by bringing our communities together to fight crime.

Peace officers fulfill a great calling in upholding the rule of law in our society. Law enforcement officers choose their profession and take their oaths knowing that theirs is a dangerous job. They accept these risks, answering the call of duty and demonstrating a willingness to serve that reflects the best of America.

As they work to protect our communities, peace officers often place themselves in harm's way. Some make the ultimate sacrifice in defense of others. During Police Week, and particularly on Peace Officers' Memorial Day, we pay tribute to the 148 law enforcement officers who gave their lives in the line of duty last year. Those who have fallen are remembered in our hearts and in the memory of our country. Through their service and sacrifice, they have earned our Nation's respect and gratitude.

As we honor these fallen heroes, we should also resolve to support all law enforcement officers by becoming active in the fight against crime. Strong communities and neighborhoods help deter crime. By coming together as neighbors, and by looking out for each other, Americans can assist law enforcement in preventing crime in our communities and also help secure our homeland from the threat of terrorism. In the new world we face since September 11, one of our best defenses is a vigilant public working with law enforcement to help protect our land.

I created the USA Freedom Corps to foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility in America, and to provide opportunities for Americans to get involved in helping their communities. A key component of Freedom Corps is the Citizen Corps, which helps coordinate volunteer activities that make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared for emergencies. Since the Citizen Corps was launched last year, more than 500 Citizen Corps Councils have been established, bringing together first responders, local government officials, and volunteer service organizations.

Volunteers are also working with police departments through more than 430 Volunteers in Police Service programs in our Nation. Additionally, the number of registered Neighborhood Watch groups continues to grow. To build on these successes, we should continue to strengthen partnerships between citizens and local law enforcement and work to engage more volunteers in public safety and emergency preparedness. By joining together to fight crime, we honor the memory and uphold the legacy of all those who gave their lives to preserve our safety and security.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2003, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and May 11 through May 17, 2003, as Police Week. I call on all Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call on Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers' Memorial Day. I further encourage all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes and businesses on that day.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

National Missing Children's Day, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

May 23, 2003

On National Missing Children's Day, we join with families, law enforcement officials, and child advocates to highlight our commitment to stopping the abduction and exploitation of children. During this year's observance, we celebrate the progress we have made in safeguarding children, and we renew our dedication to protecting our most vulnerable citizens and our most valuable resources.

The Department of Justice estimates that more than 50,000 children will be victims of nonfamily abductions each year. While the rate of recovery in such kidnappings is approximately 99 percent, the trauma of abduction affects far too many. No young person in America should ever know the terror of abduction, and no family should ever have to experience the nightmare of having a loved one suddenly taken.

The safety and well-being of our children is a shared responsibility for all Americans and for Federal, State, and local authorities. My Administration is making the prevention and investigation of child abductions a top priority. We are working to use available resources to educate our citizens about how to prevent child abductions. We are also creating new lines of communication between authorities and the public to help find and safely return missing children to their families. We will continue to vigorously prosecute and severely punish those who would harm our children.

To further these efforts, in August 2002, my Administration released a new guidebook, "Personal Safety for Children: A Guide for Parents" to teach parents steps to improve their children's safety. Since then, copies have been distributed to public and private schools and public libraries throughout the country, in both English and Spanish. In October 2002, I convened the first White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children to promote public awareness of the issues and to generate recommendations and best practices from experts. And in December 2002, I signed legislation creating the Dot Kids domain, a child-friendly zone on the Internet. The sites on this domain are monitored for content and safety, offering parents peace of mind knowing that their children can learn in a safe and healthy environment.

Last month I signed the PROTECT Act, an important law that provides valuable new ways to deter, investigate, prosecute, and punish crimes against America's children. The PROTECT Act also builds on my Administration's ongoing efforts to expand and improve the AMBER Alert program, which has become an increasingly important tool to help rescue kidnapped children by quickly getting key information about the missing child and the suspect to the public. This law formally establishes the Federal Government's role in the AMBER Alert system and equips the Department of Justice to help State and local officials develop, enhance, and coordinate AMBER plans across America.

Our Nation has come to know the names and faces of far too many children because they have been the victims of acts of cruelty and violence. These crimes break our hearts and stir our anger. Our Nation shares the joy of the parents who are reunited with their children, and prays with those who are still hoping and waiting. We grieve with every family that has suffered the loss of or injury to a child. We will continue the fight against the threats that our children face.

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 May 25, 2003, as National Missing Children's Day. I call upon Americans to join me in commemorating this observance by celebrating those children who have been returned to their loved ones, remembering those young people who are missing, and continuing to work together on every front to protect our children from those who would seek to harm them.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

President Bush Signs "Keeping Children Safe Act"
Statement by the President

June 25, 2003

I commend Congress for passing the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 and am pleased to sign it into law.

The Act will allow us to strengthen state and community-based programs that prevent child abuse and family violence and treat victims. In addition, the legislation will help us keep children safe by requiring criminal background checks for foster and adoptive parents. It also provides additional resources to increase the number of older children placed in adoptive families.

###

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

October 8, 2003

Across our country, domestic violence traumatizes victims, endangers children, harms families, and threatens communities. According to the most recent report from the Department of Justice, there were almost 700,000 incidents of domestic violence in 2001. Approximately one-third of women who are murdered each year are killed by their current or former husband or partner. Children who are subjected to domestic violence too often grow up to inflict violence on others, creating a cycle of violence that must be stopped. During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we renew our Nation's commitment to prevent and punish the perpetrators of this despicable crime and bring hope and healing to those affected by it.

In some communities across our country, law enforcement, medical, and legal services for domestic violence victims are fragmented, requiring victims to travel to several different places to receive the help and treatment they need. Comprehensive service centers for domestic violence victims and their dependents enable health and justice professionals to better serve those in need. My Administration supports efforts to provide a wide variety of victim services in one location, including medical care, counseling and social services, law enforcement and legal resources, faith-based services, employment assistance, and housing assistance.

Local nonprofit and faith-based programs and their volunteers also offer critical assistance and support to victims in need -- help that may not otherwise be available. In August of this year, the dedicated advocates at the Federally supported National Domestic Violence Hotline answered their one millionth call for help. Volunteers who want to help victims in the local community can find more information at the USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network (located at www.usafreedomcorps.gov).

My Administration is fighting domestic violence and strengthening services for victims and their dependents by supporting local and private efforts and securing historic levels of funding for the Violence Against Women programs at the Department of Justice. In fiscal year 2002, we spent \$390 million to prevent domestic violence and help victims, which represented an approximately \$100 million increase in funding. Since then, we have continued to provide a similar level of funding, and cities and towns across America are using this money to strengthen their responses to the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The Federal commitment to domestic violence has made it possible for women to seek relief from abuse and reclaim their dignity and their lives. Moreover, Federal prosecutions in cases involving violence against women increased by 35 percent in 2002.

Today is the first day of issue for the U.S. Postal Service Stop Family Violence postage stamp, which will raise money to support the national fight against domestic violence. On behalf of families and communities across America, I call on all citizens to help raise public awareness about how to prevent, recognize, and stop domestic violence. I applaud the commitment of all those who are helping to improve the lives of domestic violence survivors and their families. Working together, we can continue to find better solutions to this national problem.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2003 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to help victims of domestic violence and to work together to address this tragic problem.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

President Bush Proclaims October Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Remarks by the President on Domestic Violence Prevention

The East Room

October 8, 2003

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all for coming and welcome to the White House. In a few moments, I will sign a proclamation naming October National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I do so to focus attention on this urgent and very important issue. I will announce two new initiatives we are launching to combat domestic violence in our country.

A home, a family should be a place of support, should be a peaceful place -- not a place of cruelty and brutality. Domestic violence betrays the most basic duties of life, it violates the law, it's wrong, it is a crime that must be confronted by individuals, by communities and by government.

All of you here today have taken up the vital cause -- the really important cause -- of defending the vulnerable from domestic violence. Too often its victims suffer in secret and in silence. You make it easier for them to step out of the shadows and get the help and love they need. Your compassion is saving lives. Your country is grateful. Thank you for what you do.

I appreciate Tommy Thompson being here. He's the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Many of the initiatives on family violence come from his department. As governor of Wisconsin, he made a name for dealing with domestic violence, and has carried his passion, as have I, to Washington, D.C. to help.

I appreciate Jack Potter, who is the Postmaster General. There's a reason he is here -- it has something to do with a stamp that I'll be describing here. (Laughter.) I appreciate very much Diane Stuart, the Director of the Office of Violence Against Women, from the Department of Justice. Thank you for coming. Thank you for being a leader.

We've got a special senator here with us today, a person who flew all the way back from his home state of Colorado. He's here because he sponsored the legislation creating the Stop Family Violence stamp. I'm honored that you've come back, Senator Campbell. Ben Nighthorse Campbell is a compassionate, decent human being and I'm proud to call him, friend. Thanks for coming.

I want to thank Sheryl Kates, who is the executive director of the National Domestic Violence Hotline and the Texas Council on Family Violence. She's on the stage with me. The hotline received its one-millionth call in August. That's a lot of calls, but it's a lot of help, as well. And I want to thank Sheryl for being here -- my fellow Texan. (Laughter.) Lynn Rosenthal is the executive director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Lynn is with us, as well, here. Thank you for coming. And Rita Smith, the executive director of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, is on the stage, as well. These three women are leaders in the attempt to make somebody's life better, and I really appreciate you all coming.

As well, we've got Monique Blais is with us today. Monique brought her mother, Marci, to the White House. (Laughter.) The reason Monique is here is that she designed the art work for the Stop Family Violence stamp. And I really appreciate your talents, and when people see the stamp they'll -- when I say "talent," they'll know what I mean when I say "talent," because it's really a great piece of work. We want to thank you for coming. And I want to thank you all for being here.

Domestic violence cuts across every line of geography and income. Abuse is found in every community in our country -- every community -- and it must be fought in every community. Hundreds of thousands of incidents of domestic violence are reported every year. The sad news is, many go unreported. About a third of women murdered each year in America are killed by this type of violence. And nearly half the households where domestic violence occurs also has a child under 12 years old. There's more than one victim.

Women and children are facing dangers in this country, and they need strong allies. That's what we're here to talk about. I'm not only here to thank you for being strong allies, I'm asking others around our country to work with the

people here. There's plenty of opportunities for our fellow citizens to step forth and be a partner in helping save and heal lives.

Fortunately, there are people, victims who can find help. That's the good news about America. The bad news is there's too much domestic violence. The good news is, people can find help. Faith-based and community groups provide refuge and counseling and good legal advice. And a lot of time, an abused woman needs good, solid legal advice.

Industry groups are recycling old cell phones. It's an interesting contribution, isn't it? They're saying, here's an opportunity for you to be able to call to get help. Lifetime television -- I know some folks representing Lifetime television are here -- is promoting domestic violence awareness in its programming and public service campaigns, and we thank you for that. Part of making sure that we help save lives is to educate people about the opportunities available.

Business Strengthening America is a private organization of business leaders who are responding to a call I gave them earlier, after September the 11th. I said, why don't you become an active participant, as responsible business leaders, in helping meet our society's needs? They've joined forces with Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence. Those two groups are working to raise awareness of the issues in the workplace, and as importantly, they're encouraging employees to become volunteers in the effort to help those who have been abused.

I want to thank the responsible corporate leaders in America for hearing the call that in a responsible society you've got to behave responsibly yourself, and encourage others to follow their heart.

The fight against domestic violence is a national movement. I urge people to join the movement. Part of an awareness month is not only making people aware, but a call to service. Today all of us up here are calling people to service, to serve your community and your country. If you want to love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, there's ample opportunity to do so in the fight against domestic violence.

Our government is engaged in the fight, as it should be. Government has got a duty to treat domestic violence as a serious crime, as part of our duty. If you treat something as a serious crime, then there must be serious consequences; otherwise it's not very serious. Last year federal prosecutors for violence against women crimes increased -- federal prosecutions increased by 35 percent. Our prosecutors are doing their job. They're finding the abusers, and they're throwing the book at them. And that's important.

People who commit must understand with certainty there is a consequence. One way to change behavior is to make it clear to people in our society, if you break the law, if you beat up a woman, if you abuse your wife, you will be held to account. There must be certainty in the law, and we must have prosecutors who understand that we expect them to be tough. And they are.

The administration has also increased funding for the Justice Department's violence against women programs by \$100 million this year. We're now spending money at the highest levels in our nation's history, and it's money well spent. Programs which help local communities combat domestic violence and sexual assault and stalking, and helps the victims of those crimes are now funded at \$390 million a year. And I want to thank Ben and the member of the Congress for working to see that our appropriations request was met.

I'm going to talk about two other measures that I think will help in the fight against domestic violence. First, I've directed \$20 million in 2004 to help communities create family justice centers, where victims of domestic violence can find the services they need in one place, one central location. Too often, the services designed to help victims are uncoordinated and scattered throughout communities.

Imagine what it would be like if you were an abused person trying to find help and you went from one place to another. With laws and police and all the rules of a regulations of a free society, it must be confusing and disheartening. The victim has been so traumatized, and then she has to tell her story over and over again, which repeats the trauma. There's a better way to do this. There's a better way to help people who need help in our society.

San Diego figured it out. They've got a city attorney named Casey Gwinn -- who's right there -- who recognized that there's a more compassionate way to help people who have been abused. And so he did something about it. He

created what's called the San Diego Family Justice Center. It's a full-service center for domestic violence victims, where police officers and prosecutors and probation officers and civil attorneys and counselors and doctors and victims advocates and chaplains all come together to help somebody. The runaround is over in San Diego. There's a central location where somebody who desperately needs help can find compassion and help.

Victims can pick up food vouchers; they can get help with transportation; they can file for a temporary restraining order against their abusers; they can sign up for supervised visitation programs to keep their children safe; they can get their cell phone there. They can find help.

The San Diego Family Justice Center opened a year ago. It has already served thousands of victims. They tell me the story of Caitlin Effgen, who is a brave woman who lives in San Diego. It's probably, unfortunately, a typical story I'm about to tell you. What's atypical is that she found help in a brand new way of helping victims of domestic violence. Her boyfriend started hitting her. She tried to break up with him and he began to stalk her. In other words, he was not only abusing her one way, he decided to abuse her another, as well. And she went to the authorities and got a restraining order, which, as the experts will tell you, sometimes it works and sometimes it didn't -- because, in her case, the boyfriend continued to harass her, just wouldn't leave her alone.

You can imagine the fear she felt. He plead guilty to charges, but he still stalked and haunted her mind. And then she discovered the center. They helped her get counseling. They got another restraining order. A victim's advocate joined her and her dad in court. She got all the help she needed. I can imagine the relief that she must have felt when somebody who heard the call to love a neighbor, did just that.

The guy ended up in -- behind bars, which is the right thing to do. I congratulate the San Diego law enforcement officers. But more important, she got to remember what life was like without her misery. Those are her words, not mine. She found compassion. The funding I've set aside will help begin a national movement toward more of these centers. Twelve will be funded through this initiative. When they work, there's another twelve, and maybe even more. Maybe we can escalate the request. But the point is, we have found what can work in order to provide efficient help to channel the compassion so somebody can get their life back together. So I want to thank you for coming, Casey. Good job. You're doing your duty as a public servant. (Applause.)

The second initiative will expand the good work of community and faith-based groups as they provide counseling and mentoring and other services to children who have witnessed domestic violence. The children who witness domestic violence are prone to depression and anxiety. That's natural. You could imagine what it would be like for a little child to witness such an act. They need help and love. We have a moral obligation in our society to help relieve the suffering and to show that there is a better life.

I like to remind people, you know, that -- I wish government could make people love one another. I would sign the piece of legislation. (Laughter.) But I know there are loving people who are willing to love. It's a -- by the way, a lot of times it's from a higher law, it's not the law of government. And so what we want to do is spend \$5 billion -- \$5 million this year on initiatives -- (laughter and applause.) A million here, a million there -- (laughter.) Let's start small -- what do you think -- (laughter) -- to start an initiative called Safe and Bright Futures for Children. That's what we want to start. The Department of Health and Human Services will provide funding to community and faith-based groups to help children escape the cycle of violence, to get counseling, to get mentoring, to become involved in healthy activities like sports or scouting or community services.

The money will support programs at sites all across America. We believe it will be -- make a difference in lives. One such program is run by the Reverend Cheryle Albert, who is with us today. She works with Safe Haven Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence in Boston, Massachusetts. Probably rooting for the Red Sox, aren't you? (Laughter.) She teaches congregations about domestic violence. She helps train them to help troubled families through crisis intervention and counseling. Here's what she says: "The power behind domestic violence is that it's a secret. We work with the faith community because we feel it's the best way to break the silence."

When men and women face violence and injustice, it is important for our government to understand that oftentimes, they turn to their churches or synagogues or mosques for help -- as they should. These are places of love. They exist because of love. They are wise to do so, and our government should not fear the faith-based programs which help save lives. Matter of fact, we ought to welcome the faith-based programs into helping people who suffer. (Applause.)

Oftentimes, it requires faith to help heal a heart and to help bring a future, a bright future into some child's life. This initiative welcomes the faith-based programs all across our society. This initiative takes taxpayers' money to encourage faith-based programs to become important partners in the fight against domestic violence.

I am not the least bit hesitant to encourage our government to use federal tax money to rally the armies of compassion which exist in every society in America. We must not fear faith in America. We must welcome faith in America to help solve our problems. (Applause.)

Now, to the stamp. And the stamp will be placed out in the hall; you can see it on the way out. The Safe and Bright Futures Program will be supported by the sales of the stamp. There have been three such stamps. This is the third where the revenues collected from the sales of the stamps, designed by one of our nation's budding artists -- (laughter) -- will be -- will use that money. And as I understand it, the stamp is for sale today? That's why the head of the Post Office is here. (Laughter.)

And so anybody who wants to support effective programs in our fight against domestic violence ought to buy the stamp. The money goes to these programs. And it's a great way for people to use the mail and to express their desires to make their communities a better place.

I want to thank you all for coming today. I want to thank you for your commitment. For those who are involved with saving lives, it's a hard job. It's got to be hard to provide a shoulder on to which someone can cry, or a sympathetic ear for some child who wonders what their future is like. That can only be accomplished, however, when loving Americans hear the call. If any American is interested in serving, one good way to do so is to become involved in these programs that are saving lives as the result of the brutal crime of domestic violence.

The strength of our country is not our military, it's not our wallet -- the strength of our country is the heart and soul of the American people. And today I'm honored to be in the presence of Americans who serve your country and your community by helping people who have been hurt.

May God bless your work. May God bless those who are victims of domestic violence. And may God continue to bless our country. Thank you. (Applause.)

(The proclamation is signed.) (Applause.)

#

Preventing Domestic Violence

Today's Presidential Action

- Today in the East Room, President Bush recognized October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, announcing new initiatives designed to address the problem of domestic violence in America's communities.
 - The President announced the creation of the *Family Justice Centers* initiative by the Department of Justice in coordination with other agencies to help local communities provide comprehensive services under one roof to victims of domestic violence.
 - President Bush also announced the creation of the *Safe and Bright Futures for Children* initiative from the Department of Health and Human Services which will provide grants to community and faith-based organizations to bring together services helping children who witness domestic violence to prevent the cycle of violence from continuing from one generation to the next.
 - Finally, the President announced that the *Stop Family Violence* postage stamp went on sale today across the U.S. which will raise money for domestic violence prevention efforts.

Background on Today's Presidential Action

Domestic violence is a serious problem affecting women, men and children of all backgrounds. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, there were nearly 700,000 documented incidents of domestic violence affecting individuals and families in 2001. President Bush is committed to preventing domestic violence, addressing the effects of domestic violence on all Americans, and has secured historic levels of funding for the Violence Against Women programs at the Department of Justice. In the FY 2002 budget, the President requested and secured approximately a \$100 million increase in funding for these programs, and has continued to provide similar levels of funding in the FY 2003 and FY 2004 budgets. Federal prosecutions relating to violence against women increased by 35% in FY 2002. The Bush Administration is committed to zero tolerance towards domestic violence.

➤ Family Justice Centers

- Victims of domestic violence often are forced to seek help in a fragmented system of separate agencies offering uncoordinated services. The Family Justice Center initiative will make a victim's search for assistance and justice much easier during a difficult time. The Centers will provide comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence at one location, including medical care, counseling, law enforcement assistance, faith-based services, social services, employment assistance, and housing assistance.
- Through an interagency effort led by the Department of Justice, the Bush Administration will award \$20 million in grants in FY 2004 funds to help establish and support Family Justice Centers in 12 communities partnering with local community leaders, nonprofit agencies, corporate partners, and government agencies.

➤ Safe and Bright Futures for Children

- Children who witness domestic violence have a greater chance of continuing a cycle of violence, and it is therefore critical to address the needs of children traumatized by domestic violence. The Safe and Bright Futures for Children initiative will provide treatment and support to help children affected by domestic violence to break the cycle of violence.
- In times of crisis, many victims of domestic violence turn to the faith community, and the Federal Government is working to partner with faith-based organizations. The Department of Health and Human Services will award \$5 million in grants in FY 2004 to community and faith-based organizations to bring together local services to help children and youth who witness domestic violence. The Initiative will provide crisis intervention and counseling, and will coordinate violence prevention and youth development strategies.

➤ Stop Family Violence postage stamp release

- Today, the Stop Family Violence postage stamp went on sale in post offices across the U.S. raising money for domestic violence prevention programs including the new Safe and Bright Futures for Children grants through the Department of Health and Human Services.
- This is only the third time in the U.S. Postal Service history that it has issued a fundraising stamp.

For more information on the President's Initiatives, please visit www.whitehouse.gov

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Protection From Pornography Week, 2003

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

October 25, 2003

Pornography can have debilitating effects on communities, marriages, families, and children. During Protection From Pornography Week, we commit to take steps to confront the dangers of pornography.

The effects of pornography are particularly pernicious with respect to children. The recent enactment of the PROTECT Act of 2003 strengthens child pornography laws, establishes the Federal Government's role in the AMBER Alert System, increases punishment for Federal crimes against children, and authorizes judges to require extended supervision of sex offenders who are released from prison.

We have committed significant resources to the Department of Justice to intensify investigative and prosecutorial efforts to combat obscenity, child pornography, and child sexual exploitation on the Internet. We are vigorously prosecuting and severely punishing those who would harm our children. Last July, the Department of Homeland Security launched Operation Predator, an initiative to help identify child predators, rescue children depicted in child pornography, and prosecute those responsible for making and distributing child pornography.

Last year, I signed legislation creating the Dot Kids domain, a child-friendly zone on the Internet. The sites on this domain are monitored for content and safety, offering parents assurances that their children are learning in a healthy environment. Working together with law enforcement officials, parents, and other caregivers, we are making progress in protecting our children from pornography.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 26 through November 1, 2003, as Protection From Pornography Week. I call upon public officials, law enforcement officers, parents, and all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

December 9, 2003

Last year, more than 17,000 people were killed and 258,000 more were injured in alcohol-related crashes. Such accidents cause unnecessary suffering, loss of life, and expense. During National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, we continue our efforts to stop impaired driving and improve the safety of our roads during the holiday season and throughout the year.

We are enhancing both the education of our citizens about the dangers of driving while under the influence and our methods for keeping impaired drivers off the road. My Administration is helping in this fight by supporting the enforcement of traffic programs that teach Americans about the risks of impaired driving. Earlier this year, my Administration proposed to the Congress the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2003 (SAFETEA), which would elevate safe transportation to a national priority and increase State resources for existing enforcement and education efforts. While Federal help and funding are important, State and local involvement is also critical. As part of the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's "You Drink & Drive. You Lose." national campaign, from December 19, 2003, through January 4, 2004, more than 10,000 law enforcement agencies will join forces with community, health, government, and business organizations to demonstrate that impaired driving is unacceptable and unlawful.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 2003 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. I encourage all Americans to join the "You Drink & Drive. You Lose." national campaign to protect our citizens from impaired drivers.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

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State of the Union Address

United States Capitol
Washington, D.C.

January 20, 2004

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Speaker, Vice President Cheney, members of Congress, distinguished guests, and fellow citizens: America this evening is a nation called to great responsibilities. And we are rising to meet them.

As we gather tonight, hundreds of thousands of American servicemen and women are deployed across the world in the war on terror. By bringing hope to the oppressed, and delivering justice to the violent, they are making America more secure. (Applause.)

Each day, law enforcement personnel and intelligence officers are tracking terrorist threats; analysts are examining airline passenger lists; the men and women of our new Homeland Security Department are patrolling our coasts and borders. And their vigilance is protecting America. (Applause.)

Americans are proving once again to be the hardest working people in the world. The American economy is growing stronger. The tax relief you passed is working. (Applause.)

Tonight, members of Congress can take pride in the great works of compassion and reform that skeptics had thought impossible. You're raising the standards for our public schools, and you are giving our senior citizens prescription drug coverage under Medicare. (Applause.)

We have faced serious challenges together, and now we face a choice: We can go forward with confidence and resolve, or we can turn back to the dangerous illusion that terrorists are not plotting and outlaw regimes are no threat to us. We can press on with economic growth, and reforms in education and Medicare, or we can turn back to old policies and old divisions.

We've not come all this way -- through tragedy, and trial and war -- only to falter and leave our work unfinished. Americans are rising to the tasks of history, and they expect the same from us. In their efforts, their enterprise, and their character, the American people are showing that the state of our union is confident and strong. (Applause.)

Our greatest responsibility is the active defense of the American people. Twenty-eight months have passed since September 11th, 2001 -- over two years without an attack on American soil. And it is tempting to believe that the danger is behind us. That hope is understandable, comforting -- and false. The killing has continued in Bali, Jakarta, Casablanca, Riyadh, Mombasa, Jerusalem, Istanbul, and Baghdad. The terrorists continue to plot against America and the civilized world. And by our will and courage, this danger will be defeated. (Applause.)

Inside the United States, where the war began, we must continue to give our homeland security and law enforcement personnel every tool they need to defend us. And one of those essential tools is the Patriot Act, which allows federal law enforcement to better share information, to track terrorists, to disrupt their cells, and to seize their assets. For years, we have used similar provisions to catch embezzlers and drug traffickers. If these methods are good for hunting criminals, they are even more important for hunting terrorists. (Applause.)

Key provisions of the Patriot Act are set to expire next year. (Applause.) The terrorist threat will not expire on that schedule. (Applause.) Our law enforcement needs this vital legislation to protect our citizens. You need to renew the Patriot Act. (Applause.)

America is on the offensive against the terrorists who started this war. Last March, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, a mastermind of September the 11th, awoke to find himself in the custody of U.S. and Pakistani authorities. Last August the 11th brought the capture of the terrorist Hambali, who was a key player in the attack in Indonesia that killed over 200 people. We're tracking al Qaeda around the world, and nearly two-thirds of their known leaders have now been captured or killed. Thousands of very skilled and determined military personnel are on the manhunt, going after the remaining killers who hide in cities and caves, and one by one, we will bring these terrorists to justice. (Applause.)

As part of the offensive against terror, we are also confronting the regimes that harbor and support terrorists, and could supply them with nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. The United States and our allies are determined: We refuse to live in the shadow of this ultimate danger. (Applause.)

The first to see our determination were the Taliban, who made Afghanistan the primary training base of al Qaeda killers. As of this month, that country has a new constitution, guaranteeing free elections and full participation by women. Businesses are opening, health care centers are being established, and the boys and girls of Afghanistan are back in school. With the help from the new Afghan army, our coalition is leading aggressive raids against the surviving members of the Taliban and al Qaeda. The men and women of Afghanistan are building a nation that is free and proud and fighting terror -- and America is honored to be their friend. (Applause.)

Since we last met in this chamber, combat forces of the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Poland and other countries enforced the demands of the United Nations, ended the rule of Saddam Hussein, and the people of Iraq are free. (Applause.)

Having broken the Baathist regime, we face a remnant of violent Saddam supporters. Men who ran away from our troops in battle are now dispersed and attack from the shadows. These killers, joined by foreign terrorists, are a serious, continuing danger. Yet we're making progress against them. The once all-powerful ruler of Iraq was found in a hole, and now sits in a prison cell. (Applause.) Of the top 55 officials of the former regime, we have captured or killed 45. Our forces are on the offensive, leading over 1,600 patrols a day and conducting an average of 180 raids a week. We are dealing with these thugs in Iraq, just as surely as we dealt with Saddam Hussein's evil regime. (Applause.)

The work of building a new Iraq is hard, and it is right. And America has always been willing to do what it takes for what is right. Last January, Iraq's only law was the whim of one brutal man. Today our coalition is working with the Iraqi Governing Council to draft a basic law, with a bill of rights. We're working with Iraqis and the United Nations to prepare for a transition to full Iraqi sovereignty by the end of June.

As democracy takes hold in Iraq, the enemies of freedom will do all in their power to spread violence and fear. They are trying to shake the will of our country and our friends, but the United States of America will never be intimidated by thugs and assassins. (Applause.) The killers will fail, and the Iraqi people will live in freedom. (Applause.)

Month by month, Iraqis are assuming more responsibility for their own security and their own future. And tonight we are honored to welcome one of Iraq's most respected leaders: the current President of the Iraqi Governing Council, Adnan Pachachi.

Sir, America stands with you and the Iraqi people as you build a free and peaceful nation. (Applause.)

Because of American leadership and resolve, the world is changing for the better. Last month, the leader of Libya voluntarily pledged to disclose and dismantle all of his regime's weapons of mass destruction programs, including a uranium enrichment project for nuclear weapons. Colonel Qadhafi correctly judged that his country would be better off and far more secure without weapons of mass murder. (Applause.)

Nine months of intense negotiations involving the United States and Great Britain succeeded with Libya, while 12 years of diplomacy with Iraq did not. And one reason is clear: For diplomacy to be effective, words must be credible, and no one can now doubt the word of America. (Applause.)

Different threats require different strategies. Along with nations in the region, we're insisting that North Korea eliminate its nuclear program. America and the international community are demanding that Iran meet its commitments and not develop nuclear weapons. America is committed to keeping the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of the most dangerous regimes. (Applause.)

When I came to this rostrum on September the 20th, 2001, I brought the police shield of a fallen officer, my reminder of lives that ended, and a task that does not end. I gave to you and to all Americans my complete commitment to securing our country and defeating our enemies. And this pledge, given by one, has been kept by many.

You in the Congress have provided the resources for our defense, and cast the difficult votes of war and peace. Our closest allies have been unwavering. America's intelligence personnel and diplomats have been skilled and tireless. And the men and women of the American military -- they have taken the hardest duty. We've seen their skill and their courage in armored charges and midnight raids, and lonely hours on faithful watch. We have seen the joy when they return, and felt the sorrow when one is lost. I've had the honor of meeting our servicemen and women at many posts, from the deck of a carrier in the Pacific to a mess hall in Baghdad.

Many of our troops are listening tonight. And I want you and your families to know: America is proud of you. And my administration, and this Congress, will give you the resources you need to fight and win the war on terror. (Applause.)

I know that some people question if America is really in a war at all. They view terrorism more as a crime, a problem to be solved mainly with law enforcement and indictments. After the World Trade Center was first attacked in 1993, some of the guilty were indicted and tried and convicted, and sent to prison. But the matter was not settled. The terrorists were still training and plotting in other nations, and drawing up more ambitious plans. After the chaos and carnage of September the 11th, it is not enough to serve our enemies with legal papers. The terrorists and their supporters declared war on the United States, and war is what they got. (Applause.)

Some in this chamber, and in our country, did not support the liberation of Iraq. Objections to war often come from principled motives. But let us be candid about the consequences of leaving Saddam Hussein in power. We're seeking all the facts. Already, the Kay Report identified dozens of weapons of mass destruction-related program activities and significant amounts of equipment that Iraq concealed from the United Nations. Had we failed to act, the dictator's weapons of mass destruction programs would continue to this day. Had we failed to act, Security Council resolutions on Iraq would have been revealed as empty threats, weakening the United Nations and encouraging defiance by dictators around the world. Iraq's torture chambers would still be filled with victims, terrified and innocent. The killing fields of Iraq -- where hundreds of thousands of men and women and children vanished into the sands -- would still be known only to the killers. For all who love freedom and peace, the world without Saddam Hussein's regime is a better and safer place. (Applause.)

Some critics have said our duties in Iraq must be internationalized. This particular criticism is hard to explain to our partners in Britain, Australia, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Italy, Spain, Poland, Denmark, Hungary, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, the Netherlands -- (applause) -- Norway, El Salvador, and the 17 other countries that have committed troops to Iraq. (Applause.) As we debate at home, we must never ignore the vital contributions of our international partners, or dismiss their sacrifices.

From the beginning, America has sought international support for our operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and we have gained much support. There is a difference, however, between leading a coalition of many nations, and submitting to the objections of a few. America will never seek a permission slip to defend the security of our country. (Applause.)

We also hear doubts that democracy is a realistic goal for the greater Middle East, where freedom is rare. Yet it is mistaken, and condescending, to assume that whole cultures and great religions are incompatible with liberty and self-government. I believe that God has planted in every human heart the desire to live in freedom. And even when that desire is crushed by tyranny for decades, it will rise again. (Applause.)

As long as the Middle East remains a place of tyranny and despair and anger, it will continue to produce men and movements that threaten the safety of America and our friends. So America is pursuing a forward strategy of freedom in the greater Middle East. We will challenge the enemies of reform, confront the allies of terror, and expect a higher standard from our friend. To cut through the barriers of hateful propaganda, the Voice of America and other broadcast services are expanding their programming in Arabic and Persian -- and soon, a new television service will begin providing reliable news and information across the region. I will send you a proposal to double the budget of the National Endowment for Democracy, and to focus its new work on the development of free elections, and free markets, free press, and free labor unions in the Middle East. And above all, we will finish the historic work of democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq, so those nations can light the way for others, and help transform a troubled part of the world. (Applause.)

America is a nation with a mission, and that mission comes from our most basic beliefs. We have no desire to dominate, no ambitions of empire. Our aim is a democratic peace -- a peace founded upon the dignity and rights of every man and woman. America acts in this cause with friends and allies at our side, yet we understand our special calling: This great republic will lead the cause of freedom. (Applause.)

In the last three years, adversity has also revealed the fundamental strengths of the American economy. We have come through recession, and terrorist attack, and corporate scandals, and the uncertainties of war. And because you acted to stimulate our economy with tax relief, this economy is strong, and growing stronger. (Applause.)

You have doubled the child tax credit from \$500 to \$1,000, reduced the marriage penalty, begun to phase out the death tax, reduced taxes on capital gains and stock dividends, cut taxes on small businesses, and you have lowered taxes for every American who pays income taxes.

Americans took those dollars and put them to work, driving this economy forward. The pace of economic growth in the third quarter of 2003 was the fastest in nearly 20 years; new home construction, the highest in almost 20 years; home ownership rates, the highest ever. Manufacturing activity is increasing. Inflation is low. Interest rates are low. Exports are growing. Productivity is high, and jobs are on the rise. (Applause.)

These numbers confirm that the American people are using their money far better than government would have -- and you were right to return it. (Applause.)

America's growing economy is also a changing economy. As technology transforms the way almost every job is done, America becomes more productive, and workers need new skills. Much of our job growth will be found in high-skilled fields like health care and biotechnology. So we must respond by helping more Americans gain the skills to find good jobs in our new economy.

All skills begin with the basics of reading and math, which are supposed to be learned in the early grades of our schools. Yet for too long, for too many children, those skills were never mastered. By passing the No Child Left Behind Act, you have made the expectation of literacy the law of our country. We're providing more funding for our schools -- a 36-percent increase since 2001. We're requiring higher standards. We are regularly testing every child on the fundamentals. We are reporting results to parents, and making sure they have better options when schools are not performing. We are making progress toward excellence for every child in America. (Applause.)

But the status quo always has defenders. Some want to undermine the No Child Left Behind Act by weakening standards and accountability. Yet the results we require are really a matter of common sense: We expect third graders to read and do math at the third grade level -- and that's not asking too much. Testing is the only way to identify and help students who are falling behind. This nation will not go back to the days of simply shuffling children along from grade to grade without them learning the basics. I refuse to give up on any child -- and the No Child Left Behind Act is opening the door of opportunity to all of America's children. (Applause.)

At the same time, we must ensure that older students and adults can gain the skills they need to find work now. Many of the fastest growing occupations require strong math and science preparation, and training beyond the high school level. So tonight, I propose a series of measures called Jobs for the 21st Century. This program will provide extra help to middle and high school students who fall behind in reading and math, expand advanced placement programs in low-income schools, invite math and science professionals from the private sector to teach part-time in our high schools. I propose larger Pell grants for students who prepare for college with demanding courses in high school. (Applause.) I propose increasing our support for America's fine community colleges, so they can -- (applause.) I do so, so they can train workers for industries that are creating the most new jobs. By all these actions, we'll help more and more Americans to join in the growing prosperity of our country. Job training is important, and so is job creation.

We must continue to pursue an aggressive, pro-growth economic agenda. (Applause.) Congress has some unfinished business on the issue of taxes. The tax reductions you passed are set to expire. Unless you act -- (applause) -- unless you act -- unless you act, the unfair tax on marriage will go back up. Unless you act, millions of families will be charged \$300 more in federal taxes for every child. Unless you act, small businesses will pay higher taxes. Unless you act, the death tax will eventually come back to life. Unless you act, Americans face a tax increase. What

Congress has given, the Congress should not take away. For the sake of job growth, the tax cuts you passed should be permanent. (Applause.)

Our agenda for jobs and growth must help small business owners and employees with relief from needless federal regulation, and protect them from junk and frivolous lawsuits. (Applause.)

Consumers and businesses need reliable supplies of energy to make our economy run -- so I urge you to pass legislation to modernize our electricity system, promote conservation, and make America less dependent on foreign sources of energy. (Applause.)

My administration is promoting free and fair trade to open up new markets for America's entrepreneurs and manufacturers and farmers -- to create jobs for American workers. Younger workers should have the opportunity to build a nest egg by saving part of their Social Security taxes in a personal retirement account. (Applause.) We should make the Social Security system a source of ownership for the American people. (Applause.) And we should limit the burden of government on this economy by acting as good stewards of taxpayers' dollars. (Applause.)

In two weeks, I will send you a budget that funds the war, protects the homeland, and meets important domestic needs, while limiting the growth in discretionary spending to less than 4 percent. (Applause.) This will require that Congress focus on priorities, cut wasteful spending, and be wise with the people's money. By doing so, we can cut the deficit in half over the next five years. (Applause.)

Tonight, I also ask you to reform our immigration laws so they reflect our values and benefit our economy. I propose a new temporary worker program to match willing foreign workers with willing employers when no Americans can be found to fill the job. This reform will be good for our economy because employers will find needed workers in an honest and orderly system. A temporary worker program will help protect our homeland, allowing Border Patrol and law enforcement to focus on true threats to our national security.

I oppose amnesty, because it would encourage further illegal immigration, and unfairly reward those who break our laws. My temporary worker program will preserve the citizenship path for those who respect the law, while bringing millions of hardworking men and women out from the shadows of American life. (Applause.)

Our nation's health care system, like our economy, is also in a time of change. Amazing medical technologies are improving and saving lives. This dramatic progress has brought its own challenge, in the rising costs of medical care and health insurance. Members of Congress, we must work together to help control those costs and extend the benefits of modern medicine throughout our country. (Applause.)

Meeting these goals requires bipartisan effort, and two months ago, you showed the way. By strengthening Medicare and adding a prescription drug benefit, you kept a basic commitment to our seniors: You are giving them the modern medicine they deserve. (Applause.)

Starting this year, under the law you passed, seniors can choose to receive a drug discount card, saving them 10 to 25 percent off the retail price of most prescription drugs -- and millions of low-income seniors can get an additional \$600 to buy medicine. Beginning next year, seniors will have new coverage for preventive screenings against diabetes and heart disease, and seniors just entering Medicare can receive wellness exams.

In January of 2006, seniors can get prescription drug coverage under Medicare. For a monthly premium of about \$35, most seniors who do not have that coverage today can expect to see their drug bills cut roughly in half. Under this reform, senior citizens will be able to keep their Medicare just as it is, or they can choose a Medicare plan that fits them best -- just as you, as members of Congress, can choose an insurance plan that meets your needs. And starting this year, millions of Americans will be able to save money tax-free for their medical expenses in a health savings account. (Applause.)

I signed this measure proudly, and any attempt to limit the choices of our seniors, or to take away their prescription drug coverage under Medicare, will meet my veto. (Applause.)

On the critical issue of health care, our goal is to ensure that Americans can choose and afford private health care coverage that best fits their individual needs. To make insurance more affordable, Congress must act to address

rapidly rising health care costs. Small businesses should be able to band together and negotiate for lower insurance rates, so they can cover more workers with health insurance. I urge you to pass association health plans. (Applause.) I ask you to give lower-income Americans a refundable tax credit that would allow millions to buy their own basic health insurance. (Applause.)

By computerizing health records, we can avoid dangerous medical mistakes, reduce costs, and improve care. To protect the doctor-patient relationship, and keep good doctors doing good work, we must eliminate wasteful and frivolous medical lawsuits. (Applause.) And tonight I propose that individuals who buy catastrophic health care coverage, as part of our new health savings accounts, be allowed to deduct 100 percent of the premiums from their taxes. (Applause.)

A government-run health care system is the wrong prescription. (Applause.) By keeping costs under control, expanding access, and helping more Americans afford coverage, we will preserve the system of private medicine that makes America's health care the best in the world. (Applause.)

We are living in a time of great change -- in our world, in our economy, in science and medicine. Yet some things endure -- courage and compassion, reverence and integrity, respect for differences of faith and race. The values we try to live by never change. And they are instilled in us by fundamental institutions, such as families and schools and religious congregations. These institutions, these unseen pillars of civilization, must remain strong in America, and we will defend them. We must stand with our families to help them raise healthy, responsible children. When it comes to helping children make right choices, there is work for all of us to do.

One of the worst decisions our children can make is to gamble their lives and futures on drugs. Our government is helping parents confront this problem with aggressive education, treatment, and law enforcement. Drug use in high school has declined by 11 percent over the last two years. Four hundred thousand fewer young people are using illegal drugs than in the year 2001. (Applause.) In my budget, I proposed new funding to continue our aggressive, community-based strategy to reduce demand for illegal drugs. Drug testing in our schools has proven to be an effective part of this effort. So tonight I proposed an additional \$23 million for schools that want to use drug testing as a tool to save children's lives. The aim here is not to punish children, but to send them this message: We love you, and we don't want to lose you. (Applause.)

To help children make right choices, they need good examples. Athletics play such an important role in our society, but, unfortunately, some in professional sports are not setting much of an example. The use of performance-enhancing drugs like steroids in baseball, football, and other sports is dangerous, and it sends the wrong message -- that there are shortcuts to accomplishment, and that performance is more important than character. So tonight I call on team owners, union representatives, coaches, and players to take the lead, to send the right signal, to get tough, and to get rid of steroids now. (Applause.)

To encourage right choices, we must be willing to confront the dangers young people face -- even when they're difficult to talk about. Each year, about 3 million teenagers contract sexually-transmitted diseases that can harm them, or kill them, or prevent them from ever becoming parents. In my budget, I propose a grassroots campaign to help inform families about these medical risks. We will double federal funding for abstinence programs, so schools can teach this fact of life: Abstinence for young people is the only certain way to avoid sexually-transmitted diseases. (Applause.)

Decisions children now make can affect their health and character for the rest of their lives. All of us -- parents and schools and government -- must work together to counter the negative influence of the culture, and to send the right messages to our children.

A strong America must also value the institution of marriage. I believe we should respect individuals as we take a principled stand for one of the most fundamental, enduring institutions of our civilization. Congress has already taken a stand on this issue by passing the Defense of Marriage Act, signed in 1996 by President Clinton. That statute protects marriage under federal law as a union of a man and a woman, and declares that one state may not redefine marriage for other states.

Activist judges, however, have begun redefining marriage by court order, without regard for the will of the people and their elected representatives. On an issue of such great consequence, the people's voice must be heard. If judges

insist on forcing their arbitrary will upon the people, the only alternative left to the people would be the constitutional process. Our nation must defend the sanctity of marriage. (Applause.)

The outcome of this debate is important -- and so is the way we conduct it. The same moral tradition that defines marriage also teaches that each individual has dignity and value in God's sight. (Applause.)

It's also important to strengthen our communities by unleashing the compassion of America's religious institutions. Religious charities of every creed are doing some of the most vital work in our country -- mentoring children, feeding the hungry, taking the hand of the lonely. Yet government has often denied social service grants and contracts to these groups, just because they have a cross or a Star of David or a crescent on the wall. By executive order, I have opened billions of dollars in grant money to competition that includes faith-based charities. Tonight I ask you to codify this into law, so people of faith can know that the law will never discriminate against them again. (Applause.)

In the past, we've worked together to bring mentors to children of prisoners, and provide treatment for the addicted, and help for the homeless. Tonight I ask you to consider another group of Americans in need of help. This year, some 600,000 inmates will be released from prison back into society. We know from long experience that if they can't find work, or a home, or help, they are much more likely to commit crime and return to prison. So tonight, I propose a four-year, \$300 million prisoner re-entry initiative to expand job training and placement services, to provide transitional housing, and to help newly released prisoners get mentoring, including from faith-based groups. (Applause.) America is the land of second chance, and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life. (Applause.)

For all Americans, the last three years have brought tests we did not ask for, and achievements shared by all. By our actions, we have shown what kind of nation we are. In grief, we have found the grace to go on. In challenge, we rediscovered the courage and daring of a free people. In victory, we have shown the noble aims and good heart of America. And having come this far, we sense that we live in a time set apart.

I've been witness to the character of the people of America, who have shown calm in times of danger, compassion for one another, and toughness for the long haul. All of us have been partners in a great enterprise. And even some of the youngest understand that we are living in historic times. Last month a girl in Lincoln, Rhode Island, sent me a letter. It began, "Dear George W. Bush. If there's anything you know, I, Ashley Pearson, age 10, can do to help anyone, please send me a letter and tell me what I can do to save our country." She added this P.S.: "If you can send a letter to the troops, please put, 'Ashley Pearson believes in you.'" (Applause.)

Tonight, Ashley, your message to our troops has just been conveyed. And, yes, you have some duties yourself. Study hard in school, listen to your mom or dad, help someone in need, and when you and your friends see a man or woman in uniform, say, "thank you." (Applause.) And, Ashley, while you do your part, all of us here in this great chamber will do our best to keep you and the rest of America safe and free. (Applause.)

My fellow citizens, we now move forward, with confidence and faith. Our nation is strong and steadfast. The cause we serve is right, because it is the cause of all mankind. The momentum of freedom in our world is unmistakable -- and it is not carried forward by our power alone. We can trust in that greater power who guides the unfolding of the years. And in all that is to come, we can know that His purposes are just and true.

May God continue to bless America. (Applause.)

###

Fact Sheet: Protecting Communities by Helping Returning Inmates Find Work

January 23, 2004

Presidential Action:

In his State of the Union Address, President Bush proposed a four-year, \$300 million initiative to reduce recidivism and the societal costs of reincarceration by helping inmates find work when they return to their communities. The President's initiative, contained in his FY 2005 budget, will harness the resources and experience of faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) in helping returning inmates contribute to society.

Background:

Studies show that approximately two-thirds of ex-offenders are rearrested within three years of release, and the costs to the communities (particularly urban communities) of these crimes are large. This year, more than 600,000 adult inmates will complete their sentences and be released. To help ex-offenders stay away from crime, a substantial number of inner-city faith-based and community leaders have created resourceful programs. Working with business and service providers, these organizations provide job training, housing options, and transitional services that help ex-offenders contribute to their communities.

Program Specifics:

Working together, the Department of Labor (DOL), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Department of Justice (DOJ) would help ex-offenders find and keep employment, obtain transitional housing and receive mentoring -- the three key requirements for successful re-entry.

- Employment: FBCOs would offer job training and job placement services in coordination with business and other employment providers.
- Transitional housing: Grants would be available to organizations providing housing services or vouchers to individuals to partially subsidize transitional housing.
- Mentoring: FBCOs would provide post-release mentoring and other services essential to reintegrating ex-offenders in coordination with the corrections, parole, and probation structure.

This proposal would expand on elements of a pilot project now underway at DOL (the Ready4Work Project). The groups participating in this pilot project have seen promising results: Exodus Transitional Community in East Harlem, NY was established five years ago by a group of ex-offenders. In 2002, Exodus served 213 ex-offenders with just six returning to prison. In 2003, Exodus served 290 with only three participants returning to prison.

The City of Memphis Second Chance Program was established three years ago by Mayor Willie E. Herenton. Second Chance has served over 1,500 ex-offenders over the past three years with only four returning to prison. This initiative will complement existing Administration efforts to mentor the children of prisoners. Last year \$9 million was awarded to faith-based and community groups and the omnibus spending bill just passed by the Congress includes \$50 million in additional funds.

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

February 24, 2004
(Senate)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

S. 1805 - Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act

(Sen. Craig (R) Idaho)

The Administration strongly supports Senate passage of S. 1805. The Administration urges the Senate to pass a clean bill, in order to ensure enactment of the legislation this year. Any amendment that would delay enactment of the bill beyond this year is unacceptable. The manufacturer or seller of a legal, non-defective product should not be held liable for the criminal or unlawful misuse of that product by others. The possibility of imposing liability on an entire industry for harm that is solely caused by others is an abuse of the legal system, erodes public confidence in our Nation's laws, threatens the diminution of a basic constitutional right and civil liberty, sets a poor precedent for other lawful industries, will cause a loss of jobs, and burdens interstate and foreign commerce. S. 1805 would help curb frivolous litigation against a lawful American industry and the thousands of workers it employs and would help prevent abuse of the legal system. At the same time, the legislation would carefully preserve the right of individuals to have their day in court with civil liability actions. These civil actions are enumerated in the bill and respect the traditional role of the States in our Federal system with regard to such actions.

* * * * *

President Bush Signs Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004

Remarks by the President at Signing of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004
The East Room

April 1, 2004

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you for coming. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thanks for the warm welcome. (Laughter.) Welcome to the people's house, the White House. I'm pleased that you all could be here for the first bill signing ceremony of the year 2004.

The Unborn Victims of Violence Act provides that, under federal law, any person who causes death or injury to a child in the womb shall be charged with a separate offense, in addition to any charges relating to the mother. (Applause.) As of today, the law of our nation will acknowledge the plain fact that crimes of violence against a pregnant woman often have two victims. (Applause.) And therefore, in those cases, there are two offenses to be punished. Under this law, those who direct violence toward a pregnant woman will answer for the full extent of the harm they have done, and for all the crimes they have committed.

I appreciate members of the United States Congress who have joined us today. Majority Leader Bill Frist is with us from the Senate. Thank you for coming. Majority Leader Tom DeLay of the House of Representatives -- (applause.) Members from both political parties have joined us. I appreciate the members on stage here, House bill sponsor, Congresswoman Melissa Hart from Pennsylvania, is with us. (Applause.) Senate sponsor, Senator Mike DeWine from Ohio, is with us. (Applause.) And the Chairman of the Judiciary Committees, Senator Orrin Hatch and Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner, are with us, as well. (Applause.) Thank you all.

I appreciate those in attendance today from across the country who have worked hard to get this bill passed. I also want to thank Sharon Rocha and her husband, Ron Grantski, for joining us today. (Applause.)

This act of Congress addresses tragic losses such as Sharon and Ron have known. They have laid to rest their daughter, Laci, a beautiful young woman who was joyfully awaiting the arrival of a new son. They have also laid to rest that child, a boy named Conner, who was waiting to be born when his life, too, was taken. His little soul never saw light, but he was loved, and he is remembered. (Applause.) And his name is forever joined with that of his mom in this statute, which is also known as Laci and Conner's Law. (Applause.) All who knew Laci Peterson have mourned two deaths, and the law cannot look away and pretend there was just one.

Each of these families on this stage has lost a child, or a grandchild, or both. Carol and Buford Lyons, Tracy Marciniak-Seivers, Stephanie Alberts, Cynthia Warner -- I thank you all for your courage for coming today. (Applause.)

As these and the other families understand, any time an expectant mother is a victim of violence, two lives are in the balance, each deserving protection, and each deserving justice. If the crime is murder and the unborn child's life ends, justice demands a full accounting under the law.

Until today, the federal criminal code had been silent on the injury or death of a child in cases of violence against a pregnant woman. This omission in the law has led to clear injustices. The death of an innocent unborn child has too often been treated as a detail in one crime, but not a crime in itself. Police and prosecutors had been to crime scenes and have shared the grief of families, but have so often been unable to seek justice for the full offense. The American people, as well, have learned of these cases, and they urged action. The swift bipartisan passage of this bill through Congress this year indicates a strong consensus that the suffering of two victims can never equal only one offense.

The moral concern of humanity extends to those unborn children who are harmed or killed in crimes against their mothers. And now, the protection of federal law extends to those children, as well. With this action, we widen the circle of compassion and inclusion in our society, and we reaffirm that the United States of America is building a culture of life. (Applause.)

It is now my honor to sign the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004.

(The bill is signed.) (Applause.)

###

National Child Abuse Prevention Month 2004

By the President of the United States

A Proclamation

April 2, 2004

America has a fundamental duty to protect the safety and well-being of its children. During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we renew our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect, and we dedicate ourselves to creating a safe environment in which our children can grow and thrive.

We have made important progress in protecting America's children, but too many still suffer from abuse and neglect. Recent reports indicate that nearly 900,000 children were found to be victims of abuse or neglect in 2002. Of these children, an estimated 1,400 died, 75 percent of whom were 4 years old or younger.

These young girls and boys depend on adults to recognize the risk factors and warning signs of abuse and to take action to end it. This critical responsibility is shared by parents, teachers, coaches, religious leaders, government officials, and concerned citizens in every community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2004 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I encourage all citizens to take an active role in creating a caring community and help protect America's children from abuse and neglect.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2004
By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

April 17, 2004

We have made significant advances in reducing crime in our communities. As we continue to work to prevent crime, we also have a duty to help victims as they cope with the trauma of crimes committed against them. Each year during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we acknowledge the suffering endured by crime victims, and we honor those who bring hope and comfort to victims and their families.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA), landmark legislation that sustains thousands of local victim assistance programs across the country. Established by VOCA, the Crime Victims Fund provides crucial assistance for victims and their families, including counseling, shelter, courtroom advocacy, and help with expenses. In recent years, VOCA has begun addressing issues such as cybercrime, identity theft, hate violence, and stalking. It has also expanded its services to help victims of domestic and international terrorism.

While our Nation works to prevent terrorist activities, we also continue to wage a war against other crimes. In fighting violent crime, we battle the problems of drug abuse, gun violence, and other threats to our safety. We must ensure that when crimes do occur, we always protect the rights of victims. For this reason, my Administration continues to endorse the bipartisan Crime Victims' Rights Amendment. By allowing victims of violent crime to be present and heard at public proceedings and by giving them access to information, such an amendment would guarantee victims' inclusion in the criminal justice process without threatening the rights of defendants.

While the Congress considers this amendment, my Administration continues to support important resources for victims and public safety. We have directed funding to improve the use of DNA technology to solve crime and identify missing persons; we are employing multiple agency resources to aid victims of trafficking who are forced into slavery and prostitution; and we are encouraging faith-based organizations to provide spiritual and material sustenance to those who have suffered and lost.

This month, I was pleased to sign into law the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004, which creates a separate offense under Federal law for death or injury to an unborn

child, in addition to any charges relating to the mother. Across our country, victims are being better served and better protected, but more can be done. I encourage every community to show compassion to victims and their families by providing them with the support they need.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 18 through April 24, 2004, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I encourage all Americans to embrace the cause of victims' rights and help to advance it throughout our society.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

May 8, 2004

Law enforcement officers are among America's greatest heroes. Every day, these men and women protect our families, homes, businesses, and communities.

Our dedicated peace officers put themselves at great risk while working tirelessly on the front lines in the fight against crime, violence, and terrorism. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Fund, last year, 145 law enforcement officers made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in the line of duty, while thousands of others were injured protecting our citizens from harm. On Peace Officers' Memorial Day and throughout Police Week, we honor the memory of the fallen and recognize those who devote their lives to enforcing our laws, bringing criminals to justice, and making America safer and better.

Over the past year, many in our law enforcement community have been activated as Reservists or members of the National Guard. We are grateful to these officers and all our military personnel for answering the call to service, for their commitment to duty, and for the sacrifices they are making in defense of freedom.

By a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962, as amended, (76 Stat. 676), the Congress has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers' Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2004, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and May 9 through May 15, 2004, as Police Week. I call on all Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH

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