

This legislation also authorizes the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to conduct and support activities and research to measure health disparities and identify causes and remedies. In addition, it authorizes the Health Resources and Services Administration to support research and demonstration projects to train health professionals on reducing health care disparities.

I would like to thank many individuals who helped develop and pass this landmark law, particularly Senators Kennedy, Frist, Jeffords, and Hatch, as well as Representatives Thompson, Lewis, Jackson, Jr., Watts, Norwood, Strickland, Brown, Bilirakis, Christensen, Towns, Rodriguez, Underwood, and Roybal-Allard. I also would like to acknowledge the diligent efforts of Secretary Shalala; David Satcher, the Surgeon General; Ruth Kirschstein, Principal Deputy Director of NIH; and the many others who worked tirelessly to bring this legislation forward.

The elimination of health disparities will require a comprehensive effort, involving both the Federal Government and the private sector. The Federal Government must continue to make measurable progress against diseases and conditions that are major contributors to health disparities, and our commitment to health disparities research must ensure that new knowledge generated in federally supported laboratories and clinics benefits all of our citizens. We must also ensure that there is a diverse health care and research workforce in the future by making efforts to attract and train a generation of scientists and health care professionals who are prepared to dedicate themselves to helping eliminate health disparities.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 22, 2000.

NOTE: At the time of publication, S. 1880, approved November 22, had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register in time for assignment of a public law number.

Statement on Signing the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000

November 22, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 2712, the "Reports Consolidation Act of 2000." This Act, which passed with bipartisan support, provides permanent authority for Federal agencies to consolidate certain financial and performance reports into a single, comprehensive annual report.

This Act builds on the success of a pilot program started in 1994 and represents an important step in the maturity of financial management reporting by the Federal Government. An agency can now combine its audited financial statements, as required by the Chief Financial Officers Act, and its performance reports, required by the Government Performance and Results Act.

These new consolidated reports will give the American people a more comprehensive and useful picture of the many important services we provide to the Nation.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 22, 2000.

NOTE: At the time of publication, S. 2712, approved November 22, had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register in time for assignment of a public law number.

Exchange With Reporters in Thurmont, Maryland

November 23, 2000

Thanksgiving

The President. Hi, guys. Happy Thanksgiving.

Q. What are you thankful for, Mr. President?

The President. I have a lot to be thankful for this year. I've got my family here. They're all in good health; they're all doing well. I've got my two nephews here. I'm very grateful for how good the people of New York were to Hillary, and I'm very grateful the country's in good shape. I've got a lot to be grateful for.

2000 Presidential Election

Q. Sir, do you think the Supreme Court will get involved in the Florida situation?

The President. I think the law on that is pretty clear, and there's no point on my commenting on that. I don't think I should comment about it.

Q. Thankful you're not in this election this year? Wish you were?

The President. I think that the less I say about this right now, the better. I just want everybody who tried to vote—legally voted—to have their votes count, including the service people—everybody. I think that's what they're trying to do, and I hope there will be time to do it. I think that the position that I've taken on this all along is, we ought to just do the right thing and enfranchise everybody that could possibly do it but let the thing play out. There's a process under way, and the courts will do what they're going to do. That's the way it ought to be. And I don't think I should comment.

I'll tell you, I am thankful that I live in a country with enough faith in its democracy that we're all letting this thing play out. Comedy shows are having fun with it. We're all laughing about it. The two candidates seem to be in a fairly good humor about it. When I was in Asia, I had a couple of people tell me that in some countries people would be in the streets over this. Instead, we trust our system. We just have to trust it, whether we agree with it or disagree with it. Let it play out. I just hope that we don't run out of time.

Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 2:25 p.m. at Maple Run Golf Course. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 18

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled from Hanoi, Vietnam, to Tien Chau Village, Vietnam, and in the afternoon, they returned to Hanoi.

In the early evening, the President met with Le Kha Phieu, general secretary, Vietnamese Communist Party, in the Reception Room at Party Headquarters. Later, he met with President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam in Room A at the Presidential Palace.

In the evening, the President participated in a repatriation ceremony on the tarmac at Noi Bai Airport for recovered remains of American soldiers. He then traveled to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

The President announced his intention to appoint Mubashar A. Choudry and Allan M. Dabrow to the President's Commission on Drug-Free Communities.

The President announced his intention to appoint Larry L. (Butch) Brown, Sr., as a member of the Board of Governors of the United Service Organizations, Inc.

November 19

In the morning, the President participated in a roundtable discussion in the courtyard of the Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Museum on the next generation of leadership in Vietnam.

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Aboard Air Force One on the tarmac, the President made a telephone call expressing condolences to Susan Ruff, wife of former White House Counsel Charles F.C. Ruff, who died earlier in the day. Later, the President and Hillary Clinton returned to Washington, DC, arriving the following morning.

November 20

In the morning, the President made a brief condolence visit to the Washington, DC, home of Charles F.C. Ruff.

November 21

The President announced his intention to reappoint Alan H. Schecter as a member of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.