

*Apr. 24 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1996*

oners' rights. Our constitutional ideal of a limited government that must respect individual freedom has been a practical reality because independent Federal courts have the power "to say what the law is" and to apply the law to the cases before them. I have signed this bill on the understanding that the courts can and will interpret these provisions of section 104 in accordance with this ideal.

This bill also makes a number of major, ill-advised changes in our immigration laws having nothing to do with fighting terrorism. These provisions eliminate most remedial relief for long-term legal residents and restrict a key protection for battered spouses and children. The provisions will produce extraordinary administrative burdens on the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The Administration will urge the Congress to correct them in the pending immigration reform legislation.

I also regret that the Congress included in this legislation a commission to study Federal law enforcement that was inspired by special interests who are no friends of our Nation's law enforcement officers. The Congress has responsibility to oversee the operation of Federal

law enforcement; to cede this power to an unelected and unaccountable commission is a mistake. Our Nation's resources would be better spent supporting the men and women in law enforcement, not creating a commission that will only get in their way.

I hope that there will be an opportunity to revisit these and other issues, as well as some of the other proposals this Administration has made, but upon which the Congress refused to act.

This legislation is a real step in the right direction. Although it does not contain everything we need to combat terrorism, it provides valuable tools for stopping and punishing terrorists. It stands as a tribute to the victims of terrorism and to the men and women in law enforcement who dedicate their lives to protecting all of us from the scourge of terrorist activity.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
April 24, 1996.

NOTE: S. 735, approved April 24, was assigned Public Law No. 104-132.

## Statement on Signing the 13th Continuing Resolution

*April 24, 1996*

Today I have signed into law H.J. Res. 175, the Thirteenth Continuing Resolution for fiscal year 1996.

House Joint Resolution 175 provides for a temporary extension of appropriations—through April 25—for activities covered by the five fiscal year 1996 appropriations bills that have not been enacted into law.

It is my hope that this very brief extension will enable the Congress to complete acceptable legislation to fund these activities for the remainder of the fiscal year.

When the fiscal 1996 process is complete, we should resume our efforts to achieve a balanced budget. A balanced budget that is consistent with our Nation's values should be our ultimate goal. I am determined to continue working toward that goal.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
April 24, 1996.

NOTE: H.J. Res. 175, approved April 24, was assigned Public Law No. 104-131.