

*Oct. 30 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 2000*

NOTE: H.R. 4205, approved October 30, which incorporated the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 as an appendix, was assigned Public Law No. 106-398.

### Statement on Signing Legislation To Rename the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act *October 30, 2000*

Today, I am very pleased to sign into law H.R. 5417, which would rename the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, the "McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act."

I am deeply saddened by Representative Vento's recent passing. Representative Vento was a great friend of the poor and the homeless. His leadership on the issue of homelessness will be greatly missed in Minnesota and across the Nation.

Representative Vento was a key leader in the effort to secure the original passage in 1987 of the McKinney Act, the first and still the most significant Federal program to assist homeless persons. His commitment to those left behind did not end with the passage of the homeless assistance bill. For over a decade he remained a leading voice for social justice on Capitol Hill, introducing legislation to expand and improve services to homeless people, and continually reminding his colleagues and the Amer-

ican people of our responsibility to our most vulnerable neighbors. Representative Vento was also a passionate advocate for affordable housing and protecting our Nation's natural resources.

Bruce Vento's passing represents a significant loss for Americans who care about ending homelessness, ensuring housing opportunity, and protecting the environment. Renaming the McKinney Act the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act will serve to regularly remind our Nation of Bruce Vento's passion for justice and the responsibility we each have for our homeless neighbors.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
October 30, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 5417, approved October 30, was assigned Public Law No. 106-400.

### Statement on Signing the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 *October 30, 2000*

Today, I am pleased to sign into law S. 1809, the "Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000." This legislation reauthorizes programs that support people with developmental disabilities and helps them achieve their maximum potential through increased self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration in all facets of life. The Act also adds important new authority to provide services and activities for families of individuals with developmental disabilities and the dedicated workers who assist them.

Since 1963, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act has made a crucial difference in the lives and futures of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Through this Act, Federal funds support the development and operation of State Councils, Protection and Advocacy Systems, University Centers (formerly known as university affiliated programs), and projects of national significance. This crucial investment has provided the structure to assist people with developmental disabilities to pursue meaningful and productive