

will bear in mind that the 15-day period provided in this Act is a minimum requirement that may not be appropriate in all situations.

I fully support the effort, under the policy leadership of the Department of Commerce, to improve the transfer of valuable technology from Federal laboratories to the private sector.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,

November 1, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 209, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-404.

Statement on Signing the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2000

November 1, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 4850, the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2000." The Act directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in benefits for service-disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and children, effective December 1, 2000. It provides for higher payments of disability compensation to veterans who suffer from service-connected disabilities and for higher payments of dependency and indemnity compensation for the surviving spouses and children of servicemembers and veterans whose deaths were service-connected. Consistent with the proposal in my Fiscal Year 2001 Budget, the COLA in these benefits is equal to the one that will be provided under current law to Social Security beneficiaries and veterans pension recipients: 3.5

percent. This Act ensures that the value of these well-deserved benefits will keep pace with inflation.

This group of American citizens deserves our Nation's gratitude, particularly those who have suffered disability or have made the supreme sacrifice while serving their country and protecting our freedom. This Act expresses our appreciation for and continued commitment to these brave men and women.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,

November 1, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 4850, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-413.

Statement on Signing the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act

November 1, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 5164, the "Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act." The TREAD Act represents an important first step toward strengthening our Nation's motor vehicle safety laws, and its vigorous and quick implementation will help save lives and prevent injuries.

Most important, the Act responds directly to some of the key shortcomings in identifying the

recent Firestone tire problem. Some of the deaths and injuries associated with these tires might have been prevented if automobile manufacturers and their suppliers had been required to provide the Government with more timely information about potential safety defects. The Act addresses this by: (1) specifically requiring manufacturers, within 5 days, to report to the Secretary of Transportation any relevant safety recalls or other safety campaigns in foreign

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countries; and (2) granting the Secretary of Transportation new authority to develop an early warning system that requires automobile manufacturers and their suppliers to submit information and analysis concerning possible safety defects in vehicles and equipment.

With this new authority, however, comes the important responsibility to notify the public, as quickly as possible, of any relevant investigative efforts and other safety-related information submitted to the Secretary by the manufacturers or their suppliers. Thus, today I am also directing the Secretary of Transportation to implement the information disclosure requirements of the Act in a manner that assures maximum public availability of information.

Finally, among many other important measures, the Act also includes proposals put forth by my Administration to provide for longer recall periods, to increase civil penalties for violations of the motor vehicle safety laws, and to authorize more funds for investigations into defective cars and their parts. I strongly support all of these provisions.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
November 1, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 5164, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-414.

Statement on Signing an Extension of the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000

November 1, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 5234, which extends the applicability of the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000 to certain former spouses of deceased Hmong veterans. This bill will make these widows eligible for the eased naturalization requirements provided by the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000, which I signed into law in May of this year. Many of these widows and their families sacrificed a great deal as their spouses fought in support of the U.S. military during the conflict in Southeast Asia. Many have had to struggle to make a new life in this country,

and to raise their families, and despite language and cultural barriers, they have made significant contributions to our Nation. This legislation will help ensure that they become full-fledged citizens in our society.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
November 1, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 5234, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-415.

Statement on Signing the Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000

November 1, 2000

Today I have signed into law S. 1402, the "Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000." S. 1402 expresses the Nation's continued gratitude to our veterans by reauthorizing and making improvements to a wide range of veterans' benefits and programs.

I am pleased that the Congress has included in S. 1402 significant benefit increases and other

enhancements to the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program, which is commonly known as the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB). This program helps the men and women who have bravely served their country in the Armed Forces to adjust to civilian life. In addition, it is a major tool that the Armed Forces use to recruit highly qualified servicemembers. This