

### **Statement on Withdrawal of the Nomination of Zoe Baird To Be Attorney General**

*January 22, 1993*

Tonight, I received a letter from my Attorney-General-designate, Ms. Zoe Baird, asking that I withdraw her nomination to lead the United States Department of Justice from further consideration by the Senate.

Ms. Baird is a gifted attorney and a woman of decency and integrity. She responded to the call to public service with energy and a firm dedication to the mission of the Justice Department. Her candid disclosure of the child care matter to officials of my transition and to the Senate Judiciary Committee led to the circumstances we face today.

Clearly, our review process prior to her selection failed to evaluate this issue completely. For that, I take full responsibility. I hold Zoe Baird in the highest regard, and I believe she has much to give to her profession and to our country. I hope to continue to seek her advice and counsel. With sadness, I have accepted her request that the nomination be withdrawn and have so informed the Senate majority leader, George Mitchell.

### **Letter Accepting Zoe Baird's Withdrawal as a Nominee To Be Attorney General**

*January 22, 1993*

*Dear Zoe:*

I have received your letter asking that I withdraw your nomination as Attorney General of the United States from further consideration by the Senate. With sadness, I accept your request that the nomination be withdrawn.

You are an exceptionally gifted attorney, and a person of great decency and integrity. You have responded to the call of public service with energy and a firm dedication to the mission of the Justice Department. I realize that it was your candid disclosure of the child care matter that led to the circumstances we face today. I believe that the concerns raised about your child care situation were unique to the position of Attorney General.

You are highly qualified to be Attorney General. Your stated goals for a nonpartisan, independent and strongly managed Department of Justice were fully in accord with my own. I believe you would have been a fine Attorney General.

Hillary and I value your and Paul's friendship. We look forward to seeing you often. I hope that you will be available for other assignments for your country in my Administration.

Sincerely,

**Bill Clinton**

NOTE: The White House also made available Ms. Baird's letter requesting that her nomination to be Attorney General be withdrawn.

### **Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Cabinet Members**

*January 22, 1993*

**The President.** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Today I am proud to present to you and to the American people a Cabinet of talented, diverse, and seasoned leaders.

I'm deeply gratified to the United States Senate for their quick confirmation of 18 nominees only 2 days after the Inauguration. The Senate acted with historic dispatch because it recognizes that our Nation needs action now on our problems. I very much appreciate that, and like them I am ready to get to work.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to now present the Chief Justice to administer the oath of office. Mr. Chief Justice.

**Chief Justice Rehnquist.** Would you each raise your right hands and repeat after me. And the first phrase is "I, blank," and obviously there you insert your name—[laughter]—"do solemnly swear."

[At this point, the Chief Justice administered the oath of office.]

**The President.** Let me, first of all, say I'm glad no one said "I, blank." [Laughter] There will be time enough for those blanks in the days ahead. [Laughter]

I think now we're supposed to adjourn to the State Dining Room, is that correct? Is that right?

I also want to recognize my Ambassador to the United Nations-designate, Madeleine Albright, who has not quite been confirmed by the Senate, but I think she will be soon. Because she teaches at my alma mater, I thought she ought to have a separate swearing-in ceremony. [Laughter]

So I think that's it. Let's adjourn, please, to the reception in the State Dining Room. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:22 a.m. in the East Room at the White House.

### **Remarks on Signing Memorandums on Medical Research and Reproductive Health and an Exchange With Reporters**

*January 22, 1993*

**The President.** Please sit down, ladies and gentlemen. Today I am acting to separate our national health and medical policy from the divisive conflict over abortion. This conflict, which stems from the *Roe v. Wade* decision of 20 years ago, has brought to a halt promising research on treatment for serious conditions and diseases that affect millions of Americans, millions of American men, women, and children who include the members of my family and friends of mine and I'm sure virtually every other set of family and friends in the United States. We must free science and medicine from the grasp of politics and give all Americans access to the very latest and best medical treatments.

Today I am directing Secretary of Health and Human Services Shalala immediately to lift the moratorium on Federal funding for research involving transplantation of fetal tissue. This moratorium, which was first imposed in 1988, was extended indefinitely in 1989 despite the recommendation of a blue ribbon National Institutes of Health advisory panel that it be ended. Five years later, the evidence is overwhelming. The moratorium has dramatically limited the development of possible treatment for millions of individuals who suffer from serious disorders, including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, dia-

betes, and leukemia. We must let medicine and science proceed unencumbered by anti-abortion politics.

Today also marks the beginning of a new national reproductive health policy that aims to prevent unintended pregnancies. Our administration is committed to providing the kind of prenatal care, child care, and family and medical leave that will lead to healthy childbearing and support America's families.

As a Nation, our goal should be to protect individual freedom while fostering responsible decisionmaking, an approach that seeks to protect the right to choose while reducing the number of abortions. Our vision should be of an America where abortion is safe and legal, but rare.

Let me also say that our administration is particularly concerned with the epidemic of teenage pregnancy. The greatest human cost of our continuing national debate over reproductive policy is borne by our children and by their children. A few teenagers choose to have and raise children, and we must help them to succeed. But for millions a teen pregnancy is unintended, leaving the young woman and her partner totally unprepared for the responsibilities of parenthood. The social and economic price paid today and for the last several years by our Nation is enormous.

So today I am also directing Secretary Shalala to act immediately to implement her intended suspension of the Title X family planning regulations that are also known as the "gag rule." For almost 5 years, HHS has prohibited Title X recipients from providing their patients with full information and counseling concerning pregnancy. This dangerous restriction censors the medical information and advice that health care professionals can give their patients. As a result of today's action, every woman will be able to receive medical advice and referrals that will not be censored or distorted by ideological arguments that should not be a part of medicine.

I'm also ordering today the Director of the Agency for International Development to repeal immediately what has become known as the Mexico City policy, that has effectively applied the "gag rule" to organizations that