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Ashlawn Elementary School, Arlington, VA, who introduced the President; and Arlene Ackerman, superintendent, District of Columbia Public Schools. The President also referred to the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the National Education Association (NEA). A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on the Anniversary of the Children's Health Insurance Program

October 1, 1998

Today marks the one-year anniversary of the new Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This historic effort—which I called for in my 1997 State of the Union and signed into law last summer as part of the historic bipartisan Balanced Budget Act—is the largest children's health coverage expansion since the enactment of Medicaid over 30 years ago. CHIP provides $24 billion to help States offer affordable health insurance to children in working families that make too much for Medicaid but too little to afford private coverage.

I am proud to announce that in its first year, nearly four out of five States are already participating in CHIP. A report released by the Department of Health and Human Services today finds that these State programs will provide health care coverage to over 2.3 million children when fully implemented. Many of these States have indicated they will expand their programs to even more children, and the remaining States have proposals that we expect to approve in the coming months.

However, much work remains to be done to improve the health of our Nation's children. We must work to ensure that every child eligible for CHIP gets enrolled. Equally important, over 4 million uninsured children are eligible but not signed up for Medicaid. Educating families, simplifying the enrollment process, and making health insurance a national priority requires a sustained commitment from the public and the private sector. This has been and will continue to be a top priority for my administration. I have directed 12 Federal agencies that serve children and families to reach out and enroll uninsured children and am extremely encouraged by our partnership with the States and the private sector to help meet this challenge.

We know that children with insurance are healthier—getting more regular checkups, more routine immunizations, and fewer ear infections. On the one year birthday of CHIP, let us recommit ourselves to providing affordable health coverage to the millions of American children without insurance.

Statement on House Action on the "Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act"

October 1, 1998

I am pleased that the House today joined the Senate in passing the "Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act," a bill that will provide limited liability protections for sharing information while protecting consumers from misleading statements. This important bipartisan legislation, based on a proposal by my administration, will help our Nation prepare its computer systems for the new millennium.

By encouraging greater information sharing about Y2K solutions, this legislation will help businesses, State and local government, and Federal agencies in their efforts to address the year 2000 computer problem. I look forward to signing it into law.

Proclamation 7130—National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, 1998

October 1, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For the millions of us who have lost loved ones to breast cancer, this annual observance brings with it both sorrow and hope—sorrow that medical breakthroughs came too late to save a beloved relative or friend, and hope that new efforts in research, prevention, and treatment will protect other families from suffering the impact of this devastating disease. Recent declines in the rate of breast