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"I want somebody that will meet the big challenges of the future. I want somebody that understands the future. I want somebody that supported the right kind of change in the past, and here are the choices before me in the economy and education and health care, the environment, crime, the whole 9 yards," we win, if they understand.

You can help that. So I want to ask you for her, for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman, for Bill Nelson, go out there and make sure people understand with clarity the choice before them. If you do, trust the people will have a great celebration the night of November 7th.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:40 p.m. in Boardroom A at the Prime Osborne Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Bill Nelson, candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida. Representative Brown is a candidate for reelection in Florida's Third Congressional District.

Statement on Smaller Learning Communities Grants

October 4, 2000

I am pleased that today the U.S. Department of Education is awarding $42.3 million in grants to help school districts create Smaller Learning Communities in large high schools across the country. Nearly three-quarters of American high schools have more than 1000 students enrolled, and the grants announced today will help States and local communities create smaller learning environments to enhance the safety and academic achievement of our Nation's teenagers. The Vice President and I have a longstanding commitment to ensuring that all children have access to a first-class education, and these grants provide support to State and local communities to work toward this goal by investing in what works. We know that smaller schools provide more personal attention and greater academic support than larger schools and outperform large schools on most measures of school success, including grades, test scores, attendance, and graduation rates—and this impact is even greater for minority and low-income students.

Today I challenge Congress to extend the benefits of Smaller Learning Communities to more districts and schools by funding this program at the $120 million level proposed in my FY 2001 budget. Right now, the Republican leadership has proposed an education budget that shortchanges America's students by flat-funding the Smaller Learning Communities Program, and by failing to provide adequate funds to: reduce class size; improve teacher quality; turn around failing schools; expand after-school opportunities; build and modernize new schools; help students prepare for college through GEAR UP; and make college more accessible and affordable for all Americans. Congress must act now so that our children can receive the first-class education they deserve.

Statement on Senate Passage of the "Breast and Cervical Cancer Act of 1999"

October 4, 2000

I am extremely pleased that the Senate unanimously passed legislation today providing an important new health coverage option to low-income, uninsured women with breast cancer. With passage of the "Breast and Cervical Cancer Act of 1999," the Senate has virtually assured that the Congress will present me with legislation that I was pleased to include in this year's budget and that I will be proud to sign into law. I would like to thank my wife Hillary for her constant advocacy on behalf of this legislation. Her longstanding advocacy for women with breast cancer is well known and has been the inspiration behind this administration's unwavering commitment to this issue. I look forward to final passage of this important bill and the new security it will provide for thousands of women with breast cancer.

Remarks at a Reception for Congressional Candidate John J. Kelly

October 4, 2000

Let me say, first of all, I'm here for several reasons. One is, whatever I've been able to