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This legislation also authorizes the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to conduct and support activities and research to measure health disparities and identify causes and remedies. In addition, it authorizes the Health Resources and Services Administration to support research and demonstration projects to train health professionals on reducing health care disparities.

I would like to thank many individuals who helped develop and pass this landmark law, particularly Senators Kennedy, Frist, Jeffords, and Hatch, as well as Representatives Thompson, Lewis, Jackson, Jr., Watts, Norwood, Strickland, Brown, Bilirakis, Christensen, Towns, Rodriguez, Underwood, and Roybal-Allard. I also would like to acknowledge the diligent efforts of Secretary Shalala; David Satcher, the Surgeon General; Ruth Kirschstein, Principal Deputy Director of NIH; and the many others who worked tirelessly to bring this legislation forward.

The elimination of health disparities will require a comprehensive effort, involving both the Federal Government and the private sector. The Federal Government must continue to make measurable progress against diseases and conditions that are major contributors to health disparities, and our commitment to health disparities research must ensure that new knowledge generated in federally supported laboratories and clinics benefits all of our citizens. We must also ensure that there is a diverse health care and research workforce in the future by making efforts to attract and train a generation of scientists and health care professionals who are prepared to dedicate themselves to helping eliminate health disparities.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 22, 2000.

NOTE: At the time of publication, S. 1880, approved November 22, had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register in time for assignment of a public law number.

Statement on Signing the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000

November 22, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 2712, the "Reports Consolidation Act of 2000." This Act, which passed with bipartisan support, provides permanent authority for Federal agencies to consolidate certain financial and performance reports into a single, comprehensive annual report.

This Act builds on the success of a pilot program started in 1994 and represents an important step in the maturity of financial management reporting by the Federal Government. An agency can now combine its audited financial statements, as required by the Chief Financial Officers Act, and its performance reports, required by the Government Performance and Results Act.

These new consolidated reports will give the American people a more comprehensive and useful picture of the many important services we provide to the Nation.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 22, 2000.

NOTE: At the time of publication, S. 2712, approved November 22, had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register in time for assignment of a public law number.

Exchange With Reporters in Thurmont, Maryland

November 23, 2000

Thanksgiving

The President. Hi, guys. Happy Thanksgiving.

Q. What are you thankful for, Mr. President?

The President. I have a lot to be thankful for this year. I've got my family here. They're all in good health; they're all doing well. I've got my two nephews here. I'm very grateful for how good the people of New York were to Hillary, and I'm very grateful the country's in good shape. I've got a lot to be grateful for.