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are overweight and out of shape, and they are putting their health, long-term, at risk. We have got to turn this around.

This morning Secretary Shalala and our Education Secretary, Dick Riley, led a meeting with our partners to explore the most effective way to implement a report's recommendation that was issued to me today about this—and you may have read about it in the newspaper—more and more young people doing less and less exercise mean more and more overweight. It's going to take a team effort for us to turn this around.

Not every young person can win an Olympic medal or even make the Olympics teams, but every young person has a body that is a gift from God that ought to be maximized in terms of health and capacity. So I ask for your help in that.

Let me just say one final thing. For some of you, your Olympic moment may be now just a wonderful memory in your lives. For others, it is just the beginning of a long and illustrious career in your sport. But for all of you, your training and your achievement will bring a lifetime of benefits. You now know what you can do if you do your best. I hope that these benefits will accrue to you, your community, your country, and the rest of our world.

We must always remember that no matter how many records we break or how fast we run or how high we jump, there are still no limits to our quest for excellence—the Olympic motto from the beginning, *citius, altius, fortius,* swifter, higher, stronger. I hope you will bring that to the work of citizenship as well as to your competition, now and forever.

Congratulations. We are very, very proud of you.

[*At this point, U.S. Olympic Committee President Bill Hybl, International Olympic Committee Vice President Anita L. DeFrantz, and members of the Olympic team presented gifts to the President.*]

The President. Thank you. Let me—I don't think I did this right, but the Olympians who gave me the award were Stacy Dragila and Lenny Krayzelburg and Marlon Shirley and Pam Fernandes, and they represent this whole team. And they also made me a little warmer out here today. [*Laughter*]

So I want to thank them for their remarks. I thank all of you for being here. We either are or already have taken a picture with the whole team, and then we're going to go inside and let everybody look at the White House. But thank you very, very much, all of you. Welcome again, and happy holidays.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. on the South Portico of the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Greco-Roman wrestler Rulon Gardner and pole vaulter Stacy Dragila, U.S. Olympic Team; and Greco-Roman wrestler Alexandre Karelin, Russian Olympic Team.

Statement on the 25th Anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

November 29, 2000

Today I join millions of Americans in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a landmark civil rights law that opens the doors to education and success for more than 6 million American children each year. As we recognize this milestone, we know that education is the key to our children's future, and it is the IDEA that ensures all children with disabilities have access to a free, appropriate public education. We have seen tremendous progress over the past 25 years—students with disabilities are graduating from high school, completing college, and entering the competitive workforce in record numbers—and we must continue this progress over the next 25 years and beyond.

The benefits of the IDEA stretch far beyond just those with disabilities. The new technologies and teaching methods developed to assist students with disabilities are improving education for all students. Three-quarters of children with disabilities are learning in classrooms alongside their non-disabled peers, contributing to the diversity that is one of America's greatest strengths. This level of success would not be possible without the dedicated involvement of parents and educators who are committed to a strong educational system for all children, and I salute their dedication and accomplishments.

In this time of record prosperity, with more opportunities for success than ever before, we must ensure that all of our children have the education that will allow them to go to college, get good jobs, and play active roles in their communities. America's ongoing commitment to this principle, embodied in the IDEA, is both an economic and moral imperative for our future.

Statement Announcing Negotiations on a Comprehensive Bilateral Free Trade Agreement With Chile

November 29, 2000

The United States of America (USA) and Chile have agreed to start negotiations on a comprehensive bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The FTA will build on the progress that has been made by the U.S.-Chile Joint Commission on Trade and Investment that was established during President Clinton's state visit to Chile in April 1998. This endeavor reflects our mutual commitment to advancing free and open trade and investment in the Americas and around the world.

The USA and Chile are both strong supporters of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations. The negotiation of a bilateral free trade agreement between us will provide further impetus for the FTAA negotiations. The United States and Chile reaffirm their strong commitment to the multilateral trading system and the launch of a new round in 2001. The FTA will include labor and environmental provisions along the lines of the U.S.-Jordan FTA.

I have directed Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky to assign a high priority to advancing negotiations for an FTA.

Statement on the Death of Henry B. Gonzalez

November 29, 2000

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Congressman Henry Gonzalez.

Congressman Gonzalez was a trailblazer and a leader for all of Texas. From his election to the San Antonio city council and the Texas Senate to his successful career in Congress, Henry spent more than 40 years serving his State and his country. He was the first Hispanic to serve in the Texas State Senate in more than 100 years and the first Mexican-American elected from Texas to serve in Congress.

As chairman of the House Banking Committee, Congressman Gonzalez championed the issues of America's working families, fighting tirelessly for economic justice, civil rights, banking reform, and affordable housing. His work over the decades was recognized with countless honors and awards, including the 1994 John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage award. Henry will forever be remembered as a man of conviction and humility who devoted his life to lifting people up and building bridges of understanding.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Bertha, his children, and his family and friends.

Remarks on the Anniversary of the Brady Handgun and Violence Prevention Act

November 30, 2000

Thank you very much. It's ironic; I might say that I was not able to come and receive the award from Jim and Sarah because I was at Sharm al-Sheikh in Egypt, trying to stop a different kind of shooting. And I'm delighted and honored to receive it today.

I want to thank Secretary Summers for his work and the Treasury Under Secretary for Enforcement, Jim Johnson; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Director, Brad Buckles. I can't say enough about what Janet Reno and her Deputy Attorney General, Eric Holder, have done over these years to forge a serious partnership with local law enforcement and to move beyond rhetoric to real policies that would work to make America a safer place.

I want to thank the people here from Handgun Control and the Million Mom March and the other gun safety organizations, and the leaders from the religious community and the National Council of Black Churches, the American Jewish Congress,