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This rule will help address patients' growing concerns regarding medical privacy. Although impressive advances in medicine and information technology have helped make America's health care system the best in the world, our new technologies have at times made it more difficult to protect personal medical information. I believe that we must protect both vital health care services and the right of every American to have confidence that his or her personal medical records will remain private.

I recognize that legitimate concerns have been raised about the current rule, which I share, such as parents' concern that the rule limits their right to have access to their children's medical records. I have asked Secretary Thompson to recommend appropriate modifications to the rule to address these concerns and to ensure that patients receive the highest quality of health care. Improving our health care system while protecting the confidentiality of patient records will continue to be an important goal of my administration.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Iraq's Compliance With United Nations Security Council Resolutions

April 12, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102–1), and as part of my effort to keep the Congress fully informed, I am reporting on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with various resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council. The last report, consistent with Public Law 102–1, was transmitted on January 19, 2001.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Message on the Observance of Easter

April 13, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings to all those observing Easter. On this day, Christians around the world join in celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Man.

For Christians everywhere, Easter is a day when, in the words of the ancient Exultet hymn, the earth "rejoices in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of its King." It is a time to be humbled by and grateful for God's sacrifice and boundless love and to rejoice in the sheer wonder of life and the promise of victory over death.

Easter comes at the end of the Lenten season, a period of penitence and solemnity in many Christian traditions. The Lenten season prepares Christ's followers for the joyous affirmation that "Christ is Risen!" Holy Week activities, including Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday, remind the faithful of the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

Many traditions associated with Easter have become a part of our American way of life. Although these customs may differ, the universal message of Easter draws all Christian communities together. As families and friends gather to celebrate, we renew our commitment to follow the example of Jesus Christ in loving our neighbors and giving of ourselves for others. On this joyous day, let us also remember all those in need and those Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a wonderful Easter.

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 8

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC. Later, the President had a telephone conversation with Tiger Woods congratulating him on winning the Masters golf tournament.

April 9

In the afternoon, the President met separately with President Robert Kocharian of Armenia and President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan in the Oval Office.

The President announced the naming of Scott H. Evertz as Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tony Armendariz to be a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sarah V. Hart to be Director of the National Institute of Justice at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Shirin Raziuddin Tahir-Kheli to be the Representative of the United States of America on the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gordon H. Mansfield to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Congressional Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Amir Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of Bahrain for a working visit on May 7.

April 11

In the morning, the President traveled to Concord, NC, where he toured Concord Middle School. In the afternoon, the President traveled to Greenville, NC, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jon A. Hansen to be Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard R. Nedelkoff to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

April 12

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Russell F. Freeman to be Ambassador to Belize.

The President announced his intention to nominate John N. Palmer to be Ambassador to Portugal.

The President announced his intention to nominate Daniel R. Coats to be Ambassador to Germany.

The White House announced that the President contacted Attorney General John Ashcroft concerning recent events in Cincinnati, OH.

April 13

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles A. Heimbold, Jr., to be Ambassador to Sweden.

The White House announced that the President invited President Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia to the White House on May 2.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon at the White House on April 24.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Bahraini Amir To Visit Washington