

December 13, 1999

Bill Signing Ceremony for H.R. 3443, Foster Care Independence Act of 1999

Date:	December 14, 1999
Location:	Presidential Hall
Briefing Time:	4:45PM – 4:55PM
Event Time:	5:10 PM – 5:40 PM
From:	Chuck Brain
	Bruce Reed
	Mary Beth Cahill

I. PURPOSE

To sign into law H.R. 3443, the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999.

II. BACKGROUND

H.R. 3443 builds on proposals in your FY 2000 Budget to ensure that young people in foster care make a successful transition to independent adult living. This legislation was sponsored in the Senate by the late Senator John Chafee (R-RI) and Senator John D. Rockefeller (D-WV), and in the House by Representatives Nancy Johnson (R-CT) and Benjamin Cardin (D-MD). H.R. 3443 passed by voice vote in the House on November 18th and by unanimous consent in the Senate on November 19th.

Young people who have lived in foster care homes often enter the adult world without anyone to care or look out for them. Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent do not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of the young women have given birth, and less than one in five are completely self-supporting.

H.R. 3443 expands the Independent Living Program ("ILP") which aids current and former foster care youth with "basic living skills" such as finding a job, locating housing, and managing money. H.R. 3443 increases funding for ILP and allows States to use ILP funding to provide housing support to youth no longer eligible for foster care assistance and who are under age 21. The bill also expands health care coverage for youth leaving the foster care system by giving states the option to provide Medicaid coverage to former foster care youth who are at least 18, but not yet 21 years old.

H.R. 3443 renames ILP the "John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program." Senator Chafee was a strong advocate for helping children and held a hearing on H.R. 3443 just two days before his death. He and Senator Rockefeller had worked together for many years on youth issues. Senator Chafee's untimely death gave a sense of urgency to passage of the bill.

In the House, Representatives Johnson and Cardin worked together to pass the bill. At the beginning of the year, Representative Johnson reached out to Senators Chafee and Rockefeller to pass a bill that would enjoy support in both bodies. House Majority Whip Tom Delay (R-TX), a foster care parent himself, was instrumental in moving the bill through the House.

An unrelated provision allows Filipino veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II, including veterans of the Filipino Army and the Filipino Scouts, to receive a special monthly cash benefit if they are currently eligible for SSI and later choose to live outside the United States (e.g. move back to the Philippines). Under current law, SSI beneficiaries lose their benefits if they move outside of the U.S. This provision is highlighted by your photo opportunity before the ceremony.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

Secretary Donna Shalala
Melanne Verveer
Bruce Reed
Chuck Brain
Mary Beth Cahill
Joe Lockhart
Loretta Ucelli
Heather Hurlburt
Nicole Rabner

Photo Opportunity Participants

YOU

The First Lady

Patrick Ganio, Sr., Defender at Bataan & Corregidor, POW, American Coalition of Filipino Veterans (ACFV), President

Franco Arcebal, ACFV Vice-President, United Fil-Am Veterans Los Angeles commander

Eric LACHICA-Furbeyre, ACFV Executive Director Washington DC

Guillermo Rumingan, ACFV Veteran, Disabled New Scout Virginia

Joaquin Tejada, ACFV Veteran Washington DC

Mariano Aureus, Philippine American Veterans Organization New Jersey

Eufemio Abellera, ACFV Veteran Washington DC

Margarito Aranal, Filipino American Veterans & Families, Daly City CA

Ben Menor Jr., San Jose CA Northside Community Center Executive Director

Ernesto Casintahan, United Filipino American Veterans San Francisco

Loida Lewis (may be participating), Chair, Beatrice International. Filipino community leader
in New York

Program Participants:

YOU

The First Lady

Alfred Perez, Ann Arbor, MI

Alfred Perez, 23, was in foster care twice for a total of eleven years. During his last four years in care, he lived in eleven different placements, mostly in group homes.

During that time, Alfred carried his belongings from place to place in a plastic garbage bag. At age 15, Alfred started participation in the Contra Costa County Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) where he learned life skills and employment skills. Alfred also became a member of the California Youth Connection (CYC), an organization that empowers youth to advocate for their welfare at the local and State levels. Alfred graduated from San Jose State University in 1998, and worked full time at CYC. Currently, Alfred is in his first year of graduate school at the University of Michigan, studying social work. Alfred participated in a roundtable with the First Lady in Berkeley, CA in 1997.

Kristi Jo Frazier, Cincinnati, OH

Kristi Jo Frazier, 19, is currently living on her own as part of the Lighthouse Youth Services Independent Living Program. Kristi Jo spent several years in a foster home and completed a 30-hour training in self-sufficiency skills before entering independent living. Kristi Jo graduated from St. Bernard High School in 1999 and is currently attending Cincinnati State University as a business major. Kristi Jo also holds a full time job with the Keidel Supply company in the accounting department. In a few months Kristi Jo will leave the child welfare system, and thanks to the Lighthouse program she is well prepared for life on her own.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- YOU and the First Lady participate in a group photo with Filipino Veterans in the Hallway in front of Presidential Hall.
- YOU proceed to the hold to meet Members of Congress.
- Following the photo, YOU and the First Lady will greet Members of Congress in attendance.
- Off-stage announcement of Secretary Donna Shalala, accompanied by 10 youths.
- Off-stage announcement of YOU and the First Lady, accompanied by Alfred Perez and Kristi Jo Frazier.
- The First Lady makes remarks and introduces Alfred Perez.
- Alfred Perez makes brief remarks and introduces Kristi Jo Frazier.
- Kristi Jo Frazier makes brief remarks and introduces YOU.
- YOU make remarks and invite the youths and Members of Congress to join you at signing table.
- YOU sign the legislation, work a ropeline, and depart.

VI. REMARKS

To be provided by Speechwriting.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Members of Congress attending this bill signing ceremony.

Members Attending the H.R. 3443 Signing:

ATTENDING:

Senator Lincoln Chafee (R-RI)
Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)
Senator Rockefeller (D-WV)
Representative Ben Cardin (D-MD)

PENDING:

Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI)
Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD)
Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA)
Senator William Roth (R-DE)

Representative Richard Gephardt (D-MO)
Representative Nancy Johnson (R-CT)

Group Photo with Filipino Veterans

ATTENDING:

Patrick Gano, Sr., Defender at Bataan & Corregidor, POW, American Coalition of Filipino Veterans (ACFV), President

Franco Arcebal, ACFV Vice-President, United Fil-Am Veterans Los Angeles commander

Eric LACHICA-Furbeyre, ACFV Executive Director Washington DC

Guillermo Rumingan, ACFV Veteran, Disabled New Scout Virginia

Joaquin Tejada, ACFV Veteran Washington DC

Mariano Aureus, Philippine American Veterans Organization New Jersey

Eufemio Abellera, ACFV Veteran Washington DC

Margarito Aranal, Filipino American Veterans & Families, Daly City CA

Ben Menor Jr., San Jose CA Northside Community Center Executive Director

Ernesto Casintahan, United Filipino American Veterans San Francisco

Loida Lewis (may be participating), Chair, Beatrice International. Filipino community leader in New York

PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS LANDMARK LAW TO HELP FOSTER CARE YOUTH PREPARE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

December 14, 1999

President Clinton today will sign into law the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. This legislation, based on an initiative proposed by the President and the First Lady, will help ensure that young people who leave foster care get the tools they need to make the most of their lives. It empowers those leaving foster care by providing them better educational opportunities, access to health care, training, housing assistance, counseling and other services. The new law is only the latest instance of the Administration's longstanding commitment to children and families.

FOSTER CARE YOUTH FACE CHALLENGES AS THEY ENTER ADULTHOOD. Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year when they reach age 18 without an adoptive family or other guardian. Without the emotional, social and financial support that families provide, many of these youth find themselves inadequately prepared for life on their own. Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent do not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of the women have given birth, and less than one in five are completely self-supporting.

NEW LEGISLATION PROVIDES NEW HOPE FOR THESE YOUTH. Under previous laws, federal financial support for these young people ended just as they were making the transition to independence. The Act the President will sign today authorizes \$700 million over five years to help these young people cross this critical bridge:

- **Doubling the Federal Independent Living Program.** The Independent Living program, run through the states, helps older foster care children earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills such as budgeting, career planning and securing housing and employment. Today's new law doubles the program's funding to \$140 million per year, and invests \$350 million more over five years in these services. Under the new law, states are now required to serve youth up to 21 years old, enabling more young people to obtain a college education. It also enables states to provide time-limited financial assistance to help these youth with living expenses as they develop the skills and education needed to move successfully into the workforce. The Act the President will sign today also renames the program in honor of John Chafee, the late Senator who so effectively championed the needs of children.
- **Providing Health Insurance.** Today, when young people emancipate from foster care, they face numerous health risks, but too often lose their health insurance. The new law grants states the option for these young people to remain eligible for Medicaid up to age 21. Today, HHS will issue guidance to all State Medicaid Directors encouraging them to take up this option.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION. With today's new law, the Administration adds to an unprecedented record of promoting the well-being of children and providing them permanent, loving homes. In 1998 there were a record 36,000 adoptions from foster care, the first significant increase in the history of the program. From 1996 to 1998, the number of adoptions nationwide rose 29 percent -- from 28,000 to 36,000 -- and is on a pace to meet the President's goal of 56,000 adoptions in 2002. Among the President's other steps to improve child welfare and encourage adoption:

- **Increasing the Transitional Living Program.** Last month the President secured in the budget agreement a 40 percent increase in the Transitional Living program, which provides funds to local community-based organizations for residential care, life skills training, and other support services to homeless adolescents. The program will now be funded at \$20.7 million.
- **Enacting the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.** Based on the Administration's Adoption 2002 report, this landmark law made the health and safety of children a clear priority, provided the first-ever financial incentives for states to increase adoptions, tightened the time frames for making permanent placements of children, and removed other barriers to adoption.
- **Making Adoption Affordable.** In 1996, President Clinton enacted a \$5,000 tax credit for families adopting children; and a \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the President provided more support for families who adopt with a \$500 per-child tax credit. And under the Family and Medical Leave Act, parents can take time with a newly adopted child without losing their jobs or health insurance.
- **Breaking Down Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Adoption.** New inter-ethnic adoption provisions signed into law by the President ensure that the adoption process is free from discrimination and delays on the basis of race, culture and ethnicity.
- **Giving States Flexibility and Support.** The Clinton Administration has given 25 states waivers to test innovative strategies for improving state child welfare systems. The Administration has provided states technical support to improve court operations and grants to support local adoption projects, and has also secured federal funding for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program to serve at-risk children and families.
- **Using the Internet to Promote Adoption.** In November 1998, the President issued a directive to the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care. HHS will develop a national Internet site by the year 2002.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 12.13.99 ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: 12.13.99 5 PM

Subject: SIGNING STATEMENT - FOSTER CARE BILL

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LOCKHART	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PODESTA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MARSHALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ECHAVESTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RICCHETTI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NASH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOLAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAILY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	REED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BERGER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SOSNIK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BLUMENTHAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPERLING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BURSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STEIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CAHILL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STREETT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EDMONDS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRAMONTANO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRAMPTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UCELLI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IBARRA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VERVEER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JOHNSON, B.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>B. TOIV</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JOHNSON, J.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>CLERKS</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LANE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEWIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

COMMENTS TO STAFF SECRETARY

RESPONSE:

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today, I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 3443, the "Foster Care Independence Act of 1999," which builds on proposals in my FY 2000 Budget to ensure that young people in foster care can make the successful transition to independent adult living. I am particularly pleased that this bill pays tribute to a chief sponsor of this Act, the late Senator John Chafee. The Senator was a champion of children, particularly of our Nation's most vulnerable youth, and H.R. 3443 is an especially fitting memorial to his service to this country.

The number of young people age 16 and over in foster care has increased from approximately 62,000 in Fiscal Year 1992 to 77,000 in Fiscal Year 1998. Furthermore, each year, nearly 20,000 youth who have reached age 18 leave the foster care system and must assume the full responsibilities of adulthood without the benefit of the emotional and financial support that a family provides.

H.R. 3443 expands the resources available to the States to increase the quantity and improve the quality of their independent living programs, which provide educational, vocational, practical, and emotional supports to youth in foster care. For example, the bill will enable these youth to complete high school, receive post-secondary education, find employment, and avoid high-risk behaviors such as substance abuse. In addition, for the first time, H.R. 3443 will allow funds to be used to help pay for the housing costs of former foster care youth between the ages of 18 and 21 who no longer qualify for foster care maintenance payments.

Of particular importance, H.R. 3443 will allow States to extend health care coverage to young people "aging out" of foster care who have not yet reached the age of 21. This provision will help to ensure that such youth retain the good health necessary to make the most of their lives. I urge States to avail themselves of this option.

I am also pleased that H.R. 3443 authorizes additional funds for adoption incentive payments, which reward States that increase the number of children adopted from public foster care. This additional funding will enable States to receive, in full, the bonuses they have earned for outstanding performance.

H.R. 3443 also includes several of my proposals to improve the integrity of the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. For example, the bill will enable the Social Security Administration (SSA) to identify unreported income, assets, and living arrangements sooner so that SSI overpayments can be prevented. It also will close loopholes that currently allow individuals to qualify for SSI benefits by disposing of resources for less than their fair market value or by transferring their assets to trusts. In addition, H.R. 3443 will authorize SSA to impose specified periods of ineligibility for Social Security and SSI benefits on any individual who provides false or misleading information to qualify for such benefits.

I am heartened that H.R. 3443 contains a provision designed to honor our veterans, including Filipinos, who served under United States Armed Forces during World War II. Specifically, the bill will create a special monthly cash benefit for SSI beneficiaries with qualifying World War II service who wish to leave the United States to

return to their homelands. The benefits provided by this legislation are a special recognition of the courage, sacrifice, and loyalty of those who fought for our Nation's Armed Forces during the Second World War.

In closing, I would like to thank the House and Senate Leadership, as well as Representatives Nancy Johnson and Ben Cardin, Chairman Roth, and Senators Rockefeller, Moynihan, Grassley, Breaux, Jeffords, Reed, and Collins for their committed efforts to secure passage of H.R. 3443. I am happy to sign this legislation that will help youth leaving foster care forge a path to living securely and successfully on their own.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 12/13/99 ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: ASAP

Subject: Remarks: Signing of Foster Care Independence Act

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LOCKHART	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PODESTA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MARSHALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ECHAVESTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RICCHETTI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NASH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOLAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAILY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	REED _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BERGER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SOSNIK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BLUMENTHAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPERLING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BURSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STEIN <i>Brain</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CAHILL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STREETT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EDMONDS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRAMONTANO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRAMPTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UCELLI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IBARRA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VERVEER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JOHNSON, B.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Chris Jennings</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JOHNSON, J.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LANE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEWIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Comments to Heather Humlbust x65701

RESPONSE:

Draft 12/13/99 6:30 pm
Heather Hurlburt

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS AT SIGNING OF
FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 1999
WASHINGTON, DC
December 14, 1999**

Acknowledgements: Senator Rockefeller; Representative Cardin; [others TBD]; Tony Williams and his mom Mrs. Williams, who are an extraordinary foster care success story; Secretary Shalala, who with her staff has done tremendous work on this issue; [TK advocacy groups].

Kristi, Alfred, and all of the young people here – You are our real heroes today, for what you have achieved in your own lives, and your determination to make a difference in the lives of others. I also want to add my tribute to another American hero, Senator John Chafee – a man of great independence and stature, and a fighter until the day he died for the needs of children and young people! I'm glad that the Independent Living Program will be named for him – and that his [TK-widow] and his son, Senator Lincoln Chafee, could be with us today.

I want to say a special thank-you to my wife Hillary. For as long as I have known her, she has been fighting to see that we, as individuals and as a society, meet our responsibilities to every child without a home. She has challenged us not to forget the almost 20,000 foster children who leave the foster care system each year and have no financial or emotional support, no one to turn to in need. She put a lot of herself into getting this bill passed, and she deserves a lot of credit.

Hillary likes to quote Gabriela Mistral, a Chilean poet who was also a teacher, about children: "Many things we need can wait, the child cannot. Now is the time his bones are formed, his mind developed. To him we cannot say tomorrow, his name is today."

We are here today because all of you, and many Members of Congress from both parties, stood as one to say that America's foster children must not wait any longer.

The Foster Care Independence Act expands access to health care, education, housing, and counseling for young people who must leave foster care when they turn 18. For the first time, states will be able to pay housing costs and health insurance for people under 21. This bill also gives states more resources and flexibility to help former foster children finish high school and go to college. To help young people get jobs and vocational training. To provide counseling for young people learning to live on their own – and above all, to make sure that young adults leaving foster care know they are not out there alone.

This bill makes \$700 million available to the states over five years, under very flexible conditions. I challenge the states to use every bit of it. I know the same organizations and individuals who helped get us this far will be there to help the states design and implement good

programs. We simply cannot afford – no state can afford – to have our high school students sleeping in Metro stations, as some of these young people had to do. We cannot afford to lose our future entrepreneurs and teachers and lawyers to the kinds of obstacles these young people faced. We cannot afford to give up on the future, and these young people are America's future – and our shared responsibility.

My Administration has made it a priority to help America's most vulnerable children to grow up healthy and safe; to make the transition into happy, productive adults; and to encourage adoption, so that we can end the sadness of young people shuttling from house to house without ever knowing a home. We've made adoptions easier and more affordable; given states more flexibility; and passed incentive programs for states to promote adoption. Those worked so well that we ran out of money to reward the states. I'm pleased that this bill authorizes the additional funds that program needs; and I'm even more pleased that adoptions have risen by 29 percent in the last two years -- the first significant increase in almost 20 years.

Let me mention something else this bill does. It includes a provision to honor and assist veterans from other lands who fought as part of the United States Armed Forces during World War II. It creates a special cash benefit, under Social Security, for veterans who wish to leave the United States and return to their homelands. We have ten Filipino veterans with us today, and I want to recognize and thank them for their service.

In short, this bill keeps a promise to America's children, to help them grow up healthy and strong. And it keeps a promise to America's veterans, to let them live in comfort and dignity.

We did this with overwhelming support from both parties. What does that tell you? That Republicans and Democrats can put partisanship aside and act together for our country's future. So I challenge Congress: work with me for America's future. Take the rest of the steps we need to make sure that Social Security and Medicare are on sound footing; that every child has health coverage; that the minimum wage is a living wage. Pass commonsense legislation on gun safety and hate crimes. Join me in doing all we can to support working families – and young people like those here today, who are overcoming tremendous odds to become good citizens. They are doing their part – and we have an obligation to do ours.

Thank you very much. I'd like to ask all the Members of Congress to come up here while we sign the bill.