

### **Statement on Signing the Child Support Recovery Act of 1992**

October 25, 1992

Today I am signing into law S. 1002, the "Child Support Recovery Act of 1992." I am particularly pleased that it includes two of my proposals to improve interstate child support enforcement.

When parents separate, children may suffer. Their suffering is, unfortunately, often made much worse through the deliberate failure of a parent to comply with legally imposed child support obligations. According to evidence presented to the House Committee on the Judiciary, over \$5 billion in child support goes unpaid in the United States each and every year. This outrage—which frequently forces innocent and blameless families onto State welfare rolls—is something that we can, and indeed must, address.

S. 1002 attacks this serious problem in several ways. First, it creates a new Federal criminal offense for failure to make child support payments for more than 1 year or amounting to more than \$5,000 with respect to a child who resides in another State. This new Federal offense, which I proposed in both my Project KIDS initiative and my Violent Crime Control Act of 1992, carries a potential prison term of up to 2 years for repeat offenders.

Second, the bill includes the proposal in my Violent Crime Control Act of 1992 to give Federal judges discretion to require full payment of child support obligations as a condition of probation.

Finally, the bill authorizes the Department of Justice to make grants to States to develop, implement, and enforce criminal child support legislation and to coordinate interstate enforcement activities. Up to \$10 million could be devoted to these grants for each of fiscal years 1994, 1995, and 1996.

The welfare of our families and our children is a deep and abiding concern of all Americans. This legislation is a positive and significant step in holding irresponsible, deadbeat parents accountable to those who depend on them financially. I congratulate the sponsors and supporters of this important legislation, especially Congressman Henry

Hyde, on their leadership in bringing it to a successful conclusion.

**George Bush**

The White House.

*Note: This statement follows the text as released by the Office of the Press Secretary at the White House on October 25.*

### **Statement on Signing the Anti Car Theft Act of 1992**

October 25, 1992

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 4542, the "Anti Car Theft Act of 1992." This legislation is absolutely critical if we are to strike back against auto thieves and carjackers. These criminals who show no respect for the lives or property of law-abiding Americans, must be punished in the strongest possible manner.

This bill makes armed carjacking a Federal offense. The recent wave of these carjackings has made the need for action clear.

The bill also seeks to sap the profit motive for auto theft. Last year in the United States, auto thieves stole cars valued at \$8 billion. H.R. 4542 creates a second Federal crime: operating or maintaining a "chop shop" to alter stolen cars for resale or reduce them to parts that can be resold.

It is my sincere hope that this legislation will reduce the level of auto thefts and carjackings. Thugs and criminals will now have to think twice about stealing a car. If not, they will pay a high price for their actions.

**George Bush**

The White House,

October 25, 1992.

*Note: This statement follows the text as released by the Office of the Press Secretary at the White House on October 25.*