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## The 106<sup>th</sup> Congress At-A-Glance

### December 15, 2000

**A**fter months of stalemate, the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress adjourned on December 15 after giving final approval to three remaining FY2001 appropriations bills. Uncertainty about the outcome of the presidential election, coupled with partisan wrangling, forced the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress to pass a record 21 continuing resolutions to fund government programs more than three months into the new fiscal year.

Despite the delay, progress was seen on a number of issues affecting women and families; however, action on several major issues, including patient protections, Social Security

and Medicare reform, juvenile justice reform, minimum wage legislation, and tax cuts will be left to the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Women's Policy, Inc. will publish a summary of congressional action in two quarterly publications in the next several weeks. One quarterly will summarize action taken on appropriations bills, while the other will provide the status of other legislation affecting women and families. This "106<sup>th</sup> At-A-Glance" is intended to provide a brief summary of action taken during the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### Actions Completed

**Abortion Restrictions:** The FY2000 and FY2001 appropriations bills continued abortion funding restrictions that have been in place for the past several years. Congress voted to restrict the use of federal funds to pay for abortions for military personnel and their dependents, federal employees and their dependents, women in federal prisons, Medicaid recipients and disabled Medicare beneficiaries, low-income women in the District of Columbia, Peace Corps personnel, and Native American women who receive their health care through the Indian Health Service (November 1999/December 2000).

**Abstinence Education:** The FY2000 emergency supplemental spending bill included \$20 million for abstinence education programs under the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (July 2000). The emergency funding was included in the FY2001 military construction spending bill. However, the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill prohibited the awarding of such grants until March 1, 2001 (December 2000). Additionally, under the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill, \$30 million in advance FY2002 funding was appropriated for abstinence education programs (December 2000). As required by the 1996 welfare reform law, abstinence education programs also received \$50 million in each of FY2000 and FY2001 (November 1999/December 2000).

**Adopted Orphans Citizenship:** Congress enacted legislation to grant citizenship retroactively to foreign-born children

adopted by American citizens (October 2000).

**Adoption:** The FY2000 D.C. appropriations bill included \$5 million to create incentives to encourage the adoption of children in the D.C. foster care system (November 1999). Funding was not included in the FY2001 D.C. spending bill (November 2000).

Under the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill, \$9.9 million was appropriated for an adoption awareness program enacted under the Child Health Act of 2000 (December 2000).

**Adoption Counseling:** Congress approved legislation to allow the Department of Health and Human Services to monitor family planning clinics to see whether adoption counseling training was occurring. The provision was included in a bill to reauthorize and extend children's health research programs (October 2000).

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Reauthorization:** Congress approved legislation to reauthorize and revamp AHRQ (November 1999).

**Autoimmune Diseases:** Congress approved legislation to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to expand, intensify, and coordinate research on autoimmune diseases at the NIH (October 2000). The provision was in-

cluded in a bill to reauthorize and extend children's health research programs at the NIH.

**Biomedical Imaging:** Congress approved legislation to create a National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering at the National Institutes of Health (December 2000).

**Breast Cancer Research:** Congress approved legislation to appropriate \$175 million for peer-reviewed breast cancer research at the Department of Defense in FY2000 and FY2001 (October 1999/August 2000).

Congress also approved legislation to reauthorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The bill includes \$2 million for research and early detection systems for breast and ovarian cancer and other women's health issues (October 2000).

**Breast Cancer Stamp:** Congress approved legislation to reauthorize the sale of special "semipostal" U.S. postage stamps to raise money for breast cancer research (July 2000).

**Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment:** Congress approved legislation to give states the option of providing treatment under Medicaid for women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (October 2000).

**Breastfeeding:** Congress approved legislation allowing women to breastfeed on federal property. The provision was included in the FY2000 and FY2001 Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bills (September 1999/December 2000).

**Child Abuse:** Congress approved a bill to give local law enforcement officials greater flexibility in using federal funds for investigation and prevention efforts; to help authorities acquire and share criminal records of suspects in child abuse cases; and to help fund a program that allows child abuse victims to testify in court via closed-circuit television (March 2000).

Congress approved a bill to increase funding for child abuse prevention and enforcement efforts (November 1999).

Congress approved a bill to strengthen child abuse and neglect courts (October 2000).

**Child Care in the Federal Government:** Congress approved legislation allowing federal agencies to use their administrative funds to help low-income employees with child care expenses. The provision was included in the FY2000 and FY2001 Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bills (September 1999/December 2000). The FY2001 bill also included a provision to require all workers in federal child care facilities to undergo

criminal background checks (December 2000).

**Child Care in the Military:** Congress approved legislation appropriating \$22 million in FY2000 and \$43 million in FY2001 for child development centers under the auspices of the Department of Defense (August 1999/October 2000).

**Child Care Safety:** Congress approved legislation to authorize \$200 million in state grants for programs to improve the health and safety of children in child care (October 2000). The provision was included in a bill to reauthorize and extend children's health research at the National Institutes of Health.

**Child Support:** The FY2000 State Department reauthorization bill included a modified House-passed provision requiring a feasibility study on a provision that would have denied, revoked, or limited passports to noncustodial parents who owe more than \$2,500 in child support (November 1999).

**Children's Health:** Congress approved legislation to reauthorize and extend children's health research programs (October 2000).

**Computer Donation Tax Credit:** Congress legislation to extend and expand the tax deduction for companies that donate computers to public schools or public libraries (December 2000). The provision was included in the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill.

**Contraceptive Coverage:** Congress approved legislation to extend current law by requiring health plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program to cover prescription contraceptives if they also cover other prescription drugs. The provision was included in the FY2000 and FY2001 Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bills (September 1999/December 2000).

**Contract Bundling:** Congress approved legislation to require the Department of Defense to study the practice of contract bundling and its impact on small businesses, including women-owned or -controlled businesses (October 2000). The provision was included in the FY2001 defense authorization bill.

Congress also approved legislation to create a new database at the Small Business Administration to track the federal government's contract bundling practices (December 2000).

**Date Rape Drugs:** Congress approved legislation to place Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB), a drug commonly used to facilitate date rapes, on Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (February 2000).

**DNA Analysis Backlog:** Congress approved legislation to help eliminate a backlog of DNA samples waiting to be ana-

lyzed in criminal cases (December 2000).

**Domestic Violence/Insurance Discrimination:** Congress approved legislation to overhaul the financial services industry. The final version includes a provision to prohibit insurers from discriminating against domestic violence victims (November 1999).

**Domestic Violence in the Military:** Congress approved legislation establishing a Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence and requiring the Secretary of Defense to issue regulations on Armed Forces policies relating to confidentiality of communications between a patient and a doctor with respect to sexual harassment, assault, or domestic violence. The provisions were included in the FY2000 defense authorization bill (September 1999).

**Education Flexibility:** Congress approved legislation known as "Ed-Flex," designed to give states new flexibility with education programs (April 1999).

**Embryo Research Ban:** Congress approved the FY2000 and FY2001 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bills with a restriction prohibiting the use of federal funds for embryo research (November 1999/December 2000).

**Even Start:** Congress approved legislation to increase the authorization for Even Start programs (December 2000). The bill was included in the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill.

**Family Caregivers:** Congress approved legislation to authorize \$125 million to establish a new National Family Caregivers Support program. The provision was included in the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (November 2000). Congress also appropriated \$125 million for the program under the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill (December 2000).

**Family and Medical Leave:** Congress approved legislation to require the Office of Personnel Management to conduct a study on ways in which federal employees could be provided with six weeks of paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child. The provisions were included in the FY2001 Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill (December 2000).

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):** Congress approved legislation directing the Secretary of State to determine the prevalence of the practice of FGM and the existence and enforcement of laws prohibiting the practice (November 2000). The provision was included in the FY2001 foreign operations appropriations bill.

**Foster Care:** Congress approved legislation that would authorize a two-fold increase for the Independent Living Pro-

gram, which is designed to assist young adults who have "aged out" of the foster care system (November 1999).

**Gender-Related Persecution:** The FY2000 State Department reauthorization bill included a House-passed provision to create a task force within the State Department to establish guidelines for women seeking refugee status due to gender-related persecution (November 1999).

**Global HIV/AIDS Prevention:** Congress approved legislation to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa and around the world. The legislation authorizes \$150 million for an HIV/AIDS trust fund under the auspices of the World Bank in FY2001 and FY2002 (August 2000). The FY2000 foreign operations spending bill (November 1999) provided a total of \$190 million for global HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, while the FY2001 bill provided \$315 million for such activities (November 2000).

**Human Papillomavirus (HPV):** Congress approved legislation to require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct HPV surveillance, research prevention strategies, and prepare and distribute educational material about HPV. The bill also required the Department of Health and Human Services to study whether current condom labels are medically accurate with respect to the effectiveness or lack of effectiveness of condoms in preventing sexually transmitted diseases. The provisions were included in the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill (December 2000).

**Impact Aid:** Congress approved a bill to reauthorize the ESEA's impact aid section, which provides federal funds to school districts that do not receive adequate funding from property taxes, the traditional source of local education funds (October 2000). The measure was included in the FY2001 defense authorization bill.

**Intercountry Adoption:** Congress approved legislation designed to implement a treaty to set new standards for international adoption (October 2000).

**International Family Planning:** Congress approved the FY2000 omnibus appropriations bill with an abortion-related restriction on international family planning programs, known as the "Mexico City" policy. The restriction denied U.S. funds to family planning organizations that use their own money to perform abortions abroad or lobby foreign governments on abortion. The President waived the restriction, but by doing so, total funding for international family planning programs was reduced by 3 percent (November 1999). The FY2001 foreign operations appropriations bill did not include the restriction and provided a \$40 million increase for international family planning programs, bringing funding for FY2001 to \$425 million. However, the funding will be delayed until Feb-

ruary 15, 2001, allowing the next President to decide whether to impose restrictions on the funding (November 2000).

**Long-Term Care:** Congress approved legislation to allow federal and military employees and retirees to purchase long-term care insurance at group rates (September 2000).

**Lupus:** Congress approved legislation to intensify and expand research on lupus at the National Institutes of Health (November 2000). The bill was included in an omnibus health research package.

**Malaria Prevention:** Congress approved legislation to authorize \$50 million in each of FY2001 and FY2002 for international malaria prevention programs (December 2000). The funding may be used to coordinate tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS programs.

**Mammography Screening:** Congress approved legislation to increase the payment limit for new technologies for screening mammography under Medicare (December 2000). The provision was included in the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

**Maternal and Child Health Block Grant:** Congress approved legislation to increase the authorization for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant from \$705 million to \$850 million (December 2000). The provision was included in the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, which also appropriated \$714.23 million for the block grant in FY2001, a \$5 million increase over FY2000 (November 1999/December 2000).

**Medical Nutrition Therapy:** Congress approved legislation to provide Medicare coverage of medical nutrition therapy for beneficiaries with diabetes and renal disease (December 2000). The provision was included in the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

**Medical Savings Accounts:** Congress approved legislation to extend medical savings accounts for two years (December 2000). The provision was included in the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

**Medicaid Coverage for Children:** Congress approved legislation to allow additional sites to review and determine children's eligibility for Medicaid. The provision was included in the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill (December 2000).

**Medicare "Givebacks":** Congress approved legislation to increase Medicare payments to health care providers (December 2000). The legislation, which was incorporated into the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Educa-

tion appropriations bill, included several provisions related to women's health, including biennial coverage under Medicare for screening Pap smears and pelvic exams and increased Medicare reimbursement for newer technologies for mammograms.

**Minority Health:** Congress approved legislation designed to address some of the disparities among minorities, women, and underserved populations (November 2000).

Congress also approved legislation to expand Medicare+Choice quality assurance programs to include a separate focus on racial and ethnic disparities (December 2000). The legislation also established cancer prevention and treatment demonstration projects for racial and ethnic minorities. The provisions were included in the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

**Missing and Exploited Children:** Congress approved legislation reauthorizing the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (October 1999).

**Missing Children/Tax Exemptions:** Congress approved legislation to ensure that families with missing children can claim the dependent child tax exemption (December 2000).

**Needle Exchange Program Funding Restrictions:** Congress approved the FY2000 and FY2001 D.C. appropriations bills with a restriction barring the use of federal and District funds for needle exchange programs (November 1999/November 2000). An additional restriction was included in the FY2001 D.C. appropriations bill that prohibits the distribution of needles in conjunction with a needle exchange program within 1,000 feet of public elementary and secondary schools (November 2000). Congress also approved a federal funding restriction for needle exchange programs in the FY2000 and FY2001 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education spending bills (November 1999/December 2000).

**NIH Funding:** Congress approved legislation to provide \$17.9 billion in FY2000 and \$20.3 billion in FY2001 for the National Institutes of Health (November 1999/December 2000). The provisions were included in the FY2000 omnibus appropriations bill and the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

**Older Americans Act:** Congress approved a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (November 2000).

**Osteoporosis:** Congress approved legislation to appropriate \$4 million in FY2000 and \$6 million in FY2001 for osteoporosis research at the Department of Defense (October 1999/August 2000).

**Ovarian Cancer Research:** Congress approved legislation to appropriate \$12 million in FY2000 and in FY2001 for ovarian cancer research at the Department of Defense (October 1999/August 2000).

Congress also approved legislation to reauthorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The bill includes \$2 million for research and early detection systems for breast and ovarian cancer and other women's health issues (September 2000).

**Pap Smear Screening:** Congress approved legislation to provide for biennial coverage for screening Pap smears and pelvic exams under Medicare (December 2000). The provision was included in the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

**Rape Counseling:** Congress approved legislation appropriating \$10 million to the State Department's Human Rights and Democracy Fund. The money was used to provide several services for Kosovar refugees, including counseling for rape victims. The provision was included in the FY1999 emergency supplemental appropriations bill (May 1999).

**Rosa Parks Congressional Medal:** Congress approved legislation awarding Rosa Parks a Congressional Gold Medal for her contributions to the civil rights movement (May 1999).

**Ryan White CARE Act:** Congress approved legislation to reauthorize and expand the Ryan White CARE Act (October 2000). Under the measure, infants, children, adolescents, and women will be given priority in the provision of health and support services.

**Safe Motherhood:** Congress approved legislation to establish a safe motherhood national surveillance and monitoring program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The provision was included in a bill to reauthorize and extend children's health research programs (October 2000).

The FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill appropriated \$14 million for the CDC safe motherhood program (December 2000).

**Sexual Harassment:** Congress approved legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The bill included a one-time \$2 million appropriation to address a backlog of nearly 10,000 sexual harassment cases at the FAA (April 2000).

**Sex Offenders:** Congress approved legislation to require state and local law enforcement to release information about convicted sex offenders. Convicted sex offenders are required to inform colleges and universities if they enroll and the institutions are then required to make the information available on

campus (October 2000). The provision was included in the final version of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act.

Congress approved legislation aimed at deterring states from granting early release to convicted murderers, rapists, and child molesters (October 2000). The provision was included in the final version of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act.

**Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans:** Congress enacted legislation to reauthorize and revamp two SBA lending programs—the 7(a) and 504 programs (December 2000). The bills were included in the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill.

Congress also approved legislation to make the 504 loan program permanent (December 2000). The provision was included in the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill.

**Small Business Administration (SBA) Reauthorization:** Congress approved legislation to reauthorize a number of SBA programs, including the National Women's Business Council (December 2000).

**Stalking:** Congress approved legislation to amend current stalking law (October 2000). The provision was included in the final version of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act.

**Social Security "Earnings Limit":** Congress approved legislation to eliminate an "earnings limit" provision affecting the benefits level of Social Security recipients age 65 to 69 whose annual earnings exceed a certain threshold (April 2000).

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Reauthorization:** Congress approved legislation to reauthorize SAMHSA (October 2000).

**Tax Extenders:** Congress approved an extension of several expiring tax credits, including the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit, through 2001. A provision allowing taxpayers subject to the alternative minimum tax to claim child, education, adoption, and dependent care tax credits also was extended through 2001 (November 1999).

**Title X:** Congress approved legislation to provide \$239 million in FY2000 and \$253.93 million in FY2001 for the nation's family planning program (November 1999/December 2000). The provisions were included in the FY2000 omnibus appropriations bill and the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

**Tobacco:** Congress approved the FY1999 emergency supple-

mental appropriations bill with a provision prohibiting the federal government from recovering any part of the states' tobacco settlement (May 1999).

Congress did not provide funding for the Department of Justice to pursue tobacco litigation under the FY2001 Commerce, Justice, State, and Related Agencies appropriations bill (December 2000).

Congress approved legislation that makes it illegal for a minor to possess tobacco products in the District of Columbia (D.C.) and provides \$100,000 to the D.C. police department to enforce the ban. The provision was included in the FY2001 D.C. appropriations bill (November 2000).

**Trafficking in Women and Children:** Congress approved legislation aimed at combating international sexual trafficking in women and children (October 2000).

Congress approved legislation to provide \$2.5 million for trafficking prevention efforts. The provision was included in the FY2001 foreign operations appropriations bill (November 2000).

**Transitional Medicaid Assistance:** Congress approved legislation to extend the Transitional Medicaid Assistance program. The provision was included in the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill (December 2000).

**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):** Congress approved legislation appropriating \$25 million for UNFPA in each of FY2000 and FY2001 after funding for the program was eliminated in FY1999 (November 1999/November 2000). The provisions were included in the FY2000 omnibus spending bill and the FY2001 foreign operations spending bill. Funding for the program also was authorized in the FY2000 State Department authorization bill, which was included in the omnibus spending bill (November 1999).

**Violence Against Women Act:** Congress approved legislation to reauthorize and expand the 1994 Violence Against Women Act (October 2000). The bill was included in the final version of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act.

**WIC Benefits Overseas:** Congress approved legislation allowing military personnel and their dependents serving overseas who qualify for benefits under the Special Supplemental

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children to receive those benefits. The provision was included in the FY2000 defense authorization bill (September 1999). The FY2001 defense authorization bill removed housing from the income eligibility requirement (October 2000).

**Women's Business Centers:** Congress approved legislation reauthorizing the Women's Business Centers at \$12 million for FY2000, \$12.8 million for FY2001, \$13.7 million for FY2002, and \$14.5 million for FY2003. The bill also allows centers graduating from the program after five years of participation to re compete for participation (November 1999). Earlier in the session, Congress approved legislation authorizing \$11 million in FY2000, along with a supplemental \$2 million for FY1999, bringing the FY1999 funding to a total of \$10 million (April 1999).

Women's Business Centers received \$9 million in FY2000 and \$12 million in FY2001, under the FY2000 and FY2001 Commerce, Justice, State, and Related Agencies appropriations bills (November 1999/December 2000).

**Women-Owned Businesses:** Congress approved legislation to allow businesses owned or controlled by women to qualify for assistance under the Department of Defense's Mentor-Protégé program (October 2000). The provision was included in the FY2001 defense authorization bill.

**Women Serving on Submarines:** Congress approved legislation to require the Navy to notify Congress if there is any intent to change its current policy prohibiting women from serving on submarines. The Navy would be prohibited from implementing the policy for 30 continuous days of congressional sessions to allow Congress to overrule the Navy's decision. The provision was included in the FY2001 defense authorization bill (October 2000).

**Women Veterans Health Care:** Congress approved legislation that would expand veterans' access to health care and reform the VA health care system. The measure contains a provision that would reauthorize through December 31, 2002, a VA program that provides counseling and medical treatment to veterans who have been sexually harassed or assaulted (November 1999).

Congress approved legislation to make women veterans eligible for a special monthly compensation award for the service-connected loss of one or both breasts (November 2000).

## Bills Vetoed

**Bankruptcy Reform:** Both the House and Senate gave final approval to a bill that would have reformed bankruptcy laws; however, the measure was expected to be pocket vetoed by the President (December 2000). Both bills would have added credit card debt to the list of nondischargeable debts—those that must be paid despite a bankruptcy filing—which also include child support and alimony payments. The bill also contained additional provisions designed to address concerns that moving credit cards into the same category as domestic support would endanger support payments. There was not an attempt to override the President's veto.

**Death Tax:** Congress approved legislation that would have phased-out estate, gift, and generation-skipping taxes by 2010. The President vetoed the bill (August 2000). The House failed to override the veto (September 2000).

**Marriage Tax Penalty:** Congress approved legislation to alleviate the marriage tax penalty, but it was vetoed by the President. The measure would have phased-in over five years an expansion of the lowest tax bracket—the 15 percent bracket—for married filers. The threshold for married couples would have been increased to \$52,500, which is double the corresponding threshold for single filers (August 2000). The House failed to override the President's veto (September 2000).

**Tax Cuts:** Congress approved a 10-year \$792 billion tax cut package, but it was vetoed by the President. The measure contained provisions pertaining to the "marriage tax penalty," the estate tax, health insurance deductibility for the self-employed, and education savings accounts, among others (July 1999).

## Provisions Dropped From Legislation

**Abortifacients:** FY2000 agriculture appropriations conferees dropped a House-passed provision that would have prohibited the Food and Drug Administration from using funds to test, develop, or approve drugs that may chemically induce abortions (September 1999). A similar amendment was defeated by the House during consideration of the FY2001 agriculture spending bill (July 2000).

**Adoption:** The House defeated an amendment to the FY2000 D.C. appropriations bill that would have prohibited the use of funds for joint adoptions between individuals not related by blood or marriage (July 1999).

**Anti-redlining:** During House consideration of a bill to revamp the financial services industry, a provision that would have prohibited insurers from discriminating against women and minorities was removed from the bill (July 1999).

**Child Care:** FY2000 Treasury-Postal Service appropriations conferees dropped a child care-related provision from the bill that would have required federal facilities to adhere to state and local standards (September 1999).

Another child care-related provision was removed from the FY2000 legislative branch appropriations bill by the House. The provision would have required House entities to participate in a recycling program, with proceeds from the sale of the material to go toward the House of Representatives Child Care Center (June 1999).

**Clinic Violence/Bankruptcy:** A Senate-passed provision that would have prohibited the discharge of debt resulting from a conviction under the Freedom of Access to Clinic

Entrances Act was dropped during conference on a bill to reform bankruptcy laws (October 2000).

**Domestic Violence Stamp:** FY2001 Treasury-Postal Service appropriations conferees dropped a Senate-passed provision that would have authorized the creation of a U.S. semipostal stamp to raise money for domestic violence programs at the Department of Justice (October 2000).

**Emergency Contraception:** Conferees on the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill dropped a Senate-passed provision that would have prohibited the distribution of emergency contraception in schools (November 2000).

**Ergonomics:** Conferees on the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill dropped a House- and Senate-passed provision to prohibit the Occupational Safety and Health Administration from implementing a final rule on ergonomic standards until March 2000 (December 2000).

**Fetal Tissue Study:** Conferees on the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill dropped a Senate-passed provision that would have required the General Accounting Office to study federal fetal tissue study guidelines (December 2000).

**Hate Crimes:** The Senate approved legislation that would have expanded the federal hate crimes statute to include crimes committed on the basis of sexual orientation, gender, or disability. The provision was included in the FY2001 defense authorization bill, but was dropped during conference (October 2000).

A similar provision was included in the Senate-passed version of the FY2000 Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill. However, the provision was removed from the conference report (October 1999).

**International Rape Counseling:** The House-passed version of the State Department reauthorization bill included a provision that would have authorized \$2.5 million for the creation of an international rape counseling program (July 1999). The provision was dropped in conference.

**Insurance Coverage for Pregnant Women and Children:** A House Commerce Committee-approved provision that would have allowed states to provide optional coverage under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program to pregnant women and children who had been residing law-

fully in the United States for two years was not included in the final version of Medicare "givebacks" legislation (December 2000).

**Medical Records Privacy:** Conferees on a bill to revamp the banking industry dropped a contentious House-passed provision that would have prohibited insurers from disclosing customer health and medical information without the consent of the customer (November 1999).

**Patients' Bill of Rights:** Conferees on the FY2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill did not include a Senate-passed provision to provide increased protections to consumers in managed care plans (December 2000).

### Outstanding Issues

**Abortion:** The House passed a bill that would have made it illegal for anyone but a parent to transport a minor across state lines to obtain an abortion and evade the home state parental consent law (June 1999). The Senate did not consider a similar measure.

Both the Senate (October 1999) and House (April 2000) passed bills that would have banned an abortion procedure bill supporters refer to as "partial-birth" abortion. However, the measure was not sent to the President after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a similar state bill was unconstitutional (June 2000).

The Senate also approved an amendment to the "partial-birth" abortion legislation that expressed the sense of Congress that *Roe v. Wade* should not be overturned (October 1999). The vote was the first time since the Supreme Court decision in 1973 that the Senate conducted a clear vote on the merits of the decision.

**Adoptive Parents Tax Credit:** The House approved legislation that would have increased the tax credit for adoptive parents from \$5,000 to \$10,000 (October 2000). The provision was included in an omnibus package that included pension reforms, an increase in the minimum wage, reauthorization of a Small Business Administration loan program, and Medicare "givebacks." The Senate did not consider the omnibus measure.

**"Born-Alive Infant Protection":** The House approved legislation that would have changed the definition of an individual under the U.S. Criminal Code (September 2000). The Senate attempted to approve the House-passed bill by unanimous consent, but there was an objection to that move (October 2000).

**Breast Cancer Stamp:** The Senate approved legislation that would have extended the Stamp Out Breast Cancer Act. The bill included a provision that would have ensured that the U.S. Postal Service was reimbursed for the full cost of producing the semipostal stamp (July 2000). A similar bill, without the reimbursement provision, was signed into law (July 2000).

**Child Care Safety:** The House approved legislation that would have required the General Services Administration to inform parents about the departments and agencies located in the same building as a federal child care center (September 2000). The Senate did not consider a similar bill.

**Child Protection:** The House approved legislation that would have provided life sentences for second-time offenders convicted on federal charges related to child sexual abuse (July 2000). The Senate did not consider a similar measure.

**Child Support Distribution:** The House approved legislation that would have reformed the child support collection system (September 2000). The bill included a separate bill to encourage fathers' involvement with their children; however, the Senate did not consider a similar version.

**Clinical Trials:** The House (October 1999) and Senate (July 1999) approved legislation to provide access to clinical trials. The provisions were included in patients' bill of rights legislation; however, the bill stalled in a House-Senate conference.

**Collective Bargaining:** The House approved legislation that would have allowed health care providers to collectively bargain with health insurers (June 2000). The bill included a provision that would have prevented doctors from including abortion coverage among the services for which they could



collectively bargain with health insurers. A similar bill was not considered by the Senate.

**Crime Victims' Constitutional Amendment:** The Senate debated a crime victims' constitutional amendment, but the measure was withdrawn as support for it appeared to dwindle (April 2000). The House did not consider a similar resolution.

**Debt Relief/Pensions:** The House approved legislation that would have set aside 90 percent of the Social Security budget surplus for debt reduction. The measure also would have expanded workers' retirement savings (September 2000). The Senate Finance Committee approved a bill that included the House's pension reform language, but the bill never reached the Senate floor (September 2000).

**Drug Offenses:** The House approved a bill that would have expanded penalties for individuals convicted on federal felony drug charges involving children (October 2000). The Senate did not consider a similar measure.

**Education Savings Accounts:** The Senate approved a bill that was designed to expand education savings accounts (March 2000). The House Ways and Means Committee approved a similar bill (March 2000).

**Education "Superflex" bill:** The House approved a bill designed to offer state and local educators new flexibility with federal education spending. As approved by the House Education and the Workforce Committee, the new flexibility would have been offered to school districts nationwide, but before floor action it was revised to a 10-state pilot program (October 1999). The Senate did not consider similar legislation.

**Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Reauthorization:** The House approved several bills that would have reauthorized the ESEA. One bill would have combined several federal programs designed to reduce class size and improve teacher performance (July 1999).

Another bill would have reauthorized Title I of the ESEA. During House consideration, amendments restoring the Women's Educational Equity Act and other gender-related provisions were approved (October 1999).

Additionally, the House Education and the Workforce Committee approved its final ESEA reauthorization bill, which would have reauthorized the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act and other programs related to drug and violence prevention, technology programs, programs designed to encourage innovation in education, arts programs, civics education programs, and charter school programs (April 2000).

The Senate attempted to consider a single ESEA reauthorization bill, but an agreement could not be reached and the

measure was pulled from the floor (May 2000).

**Ergonomics:** The House (August 1999) passed a stand-alone bill that would have delayed the release of new ergonomic standards proposed by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA). The Senate did not consider a similar proposal. However, the Senate defeated an amendment to the FY2000 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill that would have prohibited OSHA from issuing new regulations (October 1999). Both the House- and Senate-passed FY2001 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education spending bills included the prohibition, but it was dropped in conference (December 2000).

**Fatherhood:** The House approved a bill that would have encouraged fathers' involvement with their children (November 1999). The bill was then folded into a separate bill to reform the child support collection system and approved again by the House (September 2000). The Senate did not consider similar legislation.

**Federal Contracting:** The Senate approved a nonbinding resolution urging federal agencies to adhere to a previously established goal of awarding 5 percent of federal contracts to women-owned businesses (May 2000). The House Government Reform Committee approved a similar resolution, but it was not considered by the full House prior to adjournment (April 2000).

The House Small Business Committee approved a bill that would have required the Small Business Administration (SBA) to conduct a study to determine the industries in which women-owned businesses are awarded the least number of federal contracts (July 2000). The Senate did not consider a similar bill.

The House Small Business Committee also approved a bill that would have required the SBA to review possible contract bundles (July 2000). The committee approved another bill requiring the SBA to examine whether contract bundling provides adequate savings.

**Fetal Rights:** The House approved a bill that would have created a separate offense if an individual kills or injures an "unborn child" while committing a federal crime against a pregnant woman (September 1999). The Senate did not consider a similar measure.

**Health Insurance Deductibility for the Self-Employed:** During Senate consideration of managed care reform legislation, an amendment was approved to allow self-employed individuals to fully deduct the costs of health insurance, retroactive to January 1, 1999 (July 1999). The House approved a bill intended to expand access to health insurance that included full deductibility for the self-employed beginning January 1,

2001 (October 1999). Similar provisions were also included in measures to increase the minimum wage and to extend expiring tax breaks (November 1999).

Full deductibility for the self-employed also was included in an omnibus package approved by the House (October 2000), which included tax cuts, pension reforms, an increase in the minimum wage, reauthorization of a Small Business Administration loan program, and Medicare "givebacks." The Senate did not consider the omnibus measure.

**Health Insurance Access:** The House approved a bill designed to increase access to health care coverage through a package of tax cuts, including expanded access to medical savings accounts, full deductibility for health care costs for the self-employed and individuals who purchase their own health insurance and/or long-term care insurance, and other provisions to expand small business access to health care coverage (October 1999).

**Housing for People with AIDS:** Both the Senate (May 2000) and the House (October 2000) approved legislation designed to increase low- and middle-income homeownership; however, subtle differences between the bills could not be worked out prior to adjournment. The legislation included a provision to increase the authorization for the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program from \$260 million to \$275 million.

**IDEA Funding:** The House approved a bill that would have authorized increased federal funds for education programs serving children with disabilities (May 2000). The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee approved a similar measure (September 2000).

**Illegal Pornography:** The House approved a bill that would have set aside \$5 million for the Department of Justice to bolster efforts to prosecute child obscenity cases involving the Internet (July 2000). The Senate did not consider a similar measure.

**Juvenile Justice:** Both the House (June 1999) and Senate (May 1999) passed legislation aimed at reforming the juvenile justice system but were unable to complete a conference on the competing bills by the close of the first session. The Senate bill included several gun control provisions, including a three-day background check for all transactions at gun shows and a requirement for child safety trigger locks or a safety storage box to accompany each sale of a handgun. The House defeated a bill containing several gun-related provisions shortly after approval of the juvenile justice bill (June 1999).

**Long-Term Care Tax Deduction:** The House approved a gradual increase in the deduction for those providing long-

term care to family members from \$3,000 in FY2001 to \$10,000 in FY2008 (October 2000). The House also approved an increase in the deduction for those who purchase long-term care insurance from 25 percent in FY2001 to 100 percent in FY2006 (October 2000). Both provisions were included in an omnibus package that also included pension reforms, an increase in the minimum wage, reauthorization of a Small Business Administration loan program, and Medicare "givebacks." The Senate did not consider the omnibus measure.

**Math and Science Education:** The House defeated a bill aimed at improving science and math education in public schools (October 2000). The bill included a provision to provide grants to educational agencies and institutions of higher education for the purpose of developing curricula encouraging girls in grades 4-12 to select careers in math and science. The bill also included a provision to create a pilot program to distribute grants to community colleges for the purpose of encouraging women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to study math, science, and engineering. A similar measure was not considered by the Senate.

**Medical Records Privacy:** Congress had hoped to enact comprehensive medical records privacy legislation by the August 21, 1999, deadline established under the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (P.L. 104-191) but was unable to do so. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala announced proposed rules for medical privacy on October 29, 1999.

**Microloans:** The House passed a bill that would have authorized an increase in funding for foreign microcredit programs, but the bill was not considered by the Senate (April 1999).

**Microenterprise:** The House Small Business Committee (June 1999) and the House Commerce Committee (May 1999) approved a bill (known as the PRIME Act) designed to assist organizations that target low-income and disadvantaged entrepreneurs. Domestic microloans are granted by specialized nonprofit lending organizations to assist entrepreneurs, often women, who lack access to traditional business start-up capital. No further action occurred.

The House International Relations Committee approved a bill pertaining to international microenterprise programs (September 2000).

**Minimum Wage:** The Senate approved a minimum wage increase as an amendment to a bill that would have reformed bankruptcy laws (November 1999). The House approved a stand-alone bill to increase the minimum wage, as well as to provide tax breaks to small businesses (March 2000).

The House (October 2000) approved a minimum wage increase as part of an omnibus package that also included tax

cuts, pension reforms, reauthorization of a Small Business Administration program, and Medicare "givebacks." The Senate did not consider the omnibus measure.

**Obscene Material:** The House approved a bill that would have expanded a law barring the transmission of obscene material to minors (October 2000).

**Obstetricians-Gynecologists Access:** Both the House (October 1999) and Senate (July 1999) approved patient protection legislation that included a provision to guarantee patient access to ob-gyns; however, the bill stalled in a House-Senate conference.

**Patients' Bill of Rights:** The House (October 1999) and Senate (July 1999) passed patients' bill of rights legislation that included several provisions benefiting women; however, the bill stalled in a House-Senate conference.

**Pension Reform:** The House approved a bill that would have made several changes to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (July 2000). The bill was combined with a separate debt relief measure and again approved by the House (September 2000). The Senate Finance Committee approved a bill that included the pension reform provisions (September 2000).

The measure also was incorporated into an omnibus package that included tax cuts, an increase in the minimum wage, reauthorization of a Small Business Administration loan program, and Medicare "givebacks." While that package passed the House (October 2000), it never came to a final vote in the Senate.

**Pregnant Women:** The House approved a bill that would have made it illegal to carry out a death sentence on a pregnant woman (July 2000). The Senate did not consider a similar measure.

**Prescription Drug Coverage:** The House approved legislation that would have provided a prescription drug benefit for seniors (June 2000). The Senate did not consider a similar bill.

**School Construction Bonds:** The House approved legislation to provide tax credits for those who invest in bonds used to finance school construction (October 2000). The legislation was included in an omnibus package that included tax cuts, an increase in the minimum wage, reauthorization of a Small Business Administration loan program, pension re-

forms, and Medicare "givebacks." The Senate did not consider the omnibus measure.

**Sex Crimes/Wiretaps:** The House approved a bill that would have expanded police access to telephone conversations that might pertain to child pornography (October 2000). The Senate did not consider a similar bill.

**Sex Offenders/HIV Testing:** The House approved a bill that would have required states to allow survivors of sexual assault to request that the alleged assailant be tested for HIV (October 2000). The Senate did not consider a similar measure.

**Small Business Taxes:** The House approved legislation to increase the minimum wage and to provide tax breaks for businesses (March 2000). The Senate also approved legislation that would have provided tax breaks for small businesses (February 2000).

**Social Security/Medicare Lock Box:** The House passed a bill that would have prevented the consideration of any tax or spending bill designed to tap into the Social Security-generated portion of the surplus by requiring a two-thirds vote to override a procedural point of order against the spending (May 1999). The Senate failed five times to invoke cloture on a similar measure.

**Violent Broadcasting:** The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee approved a bill to prohibit violent television programming during the hours when children are most likely to watch (September 2000).

**Welfare-to-Work:** The House Education and the Workforce Committee approved legislation designed to continue and broaden Welfare-to-Work (WtW) programs (November 1999).

**Women's Colleges:** The House approved legislation that would have authorized funding to preserve historic buildings at several women's colleges (October 2000). The Senate did not consider a similar measure.

**Work Opportunity Tax Credit:** The House approved legislation to extend the Work Opportunity Tax Credit through 2004 (October 2000). The provision was incorporated into an omnibus package that also included pension reforms, an increase in the minimum wage, reauthorization of a Small Business Administration loan program, and Medicare "givebacks." The Senate did not consider the omnibus measure.