

**U.S. Senate Republican Policy Committee**  
**Larry E. Craig, Chairman    Jade West, Staff Director**

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**A Dictionary of the Senate's Major Accomplishments**  
**106<sup>th</sup> Congress, First Session**

The Republican-led 106th Congress dedicated itself to keeping government in its place and thereby assuring more local control. This year, we moved forward on this agenda of returning to individuals, families, and communities greater freedom and more control over their own futures and their own money, as well as restoring educational and individual opportunities. First and foremost among our accomplishments is the Republicans' dedication to a balanced budget — which resulted in a plan allowing government to grow less than in previous years while still protecting every dime of the Social Security surplus for Social Security alone. Here is a sampling of the Republican-led Senate's accomplishments from 1999, listed alphabetically.

**Accountability for Failing Schools; Opportunity Scholarships for Students**  
**Public Law 106-113 (H.R. 3194)**

*Provides low-income children the ability to flee failing schools, just as middle- and upper-income children can, by allowing them to attend another local public or charter school of their choice.*

**Agricultural Trade Ambassador**  
**Passed the Senate (S. 185)**

*By creating a permanent position of Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), farmers will have a strong advocate to represent their trade interests.*

**American Embassy Security Act**  
**Public Law 106-113 (H.R. 3194)**

*Includes measures to safeguard American posts abroad from terrorist attack, to combat proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and to mandate institutional reforms at the United Nations and its related agencies.*

**Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty Undermining Nuclear Deterrence Defeated  
Senate rejected President's treaty (Treaty Doc. 105-28)**

*The Senate rejected the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty because it was not verifiable and would not have stopped nuclear proliferation. The treaty would have reduced the safety, reliability, and survivability of America's own nuclear weapons, and it limited the options for responding to future threats created by new technologies.*

**Congressional Fiscal Year 2000 Budget Resolution  
Passed Senate and House (S. Con. Res. 20)**

*Provides a fiscal blueprint that cuts public debt in half, protects every cent of Social Security and its surpluses, gives back to Americans their money paid in excess taxes, and restrains the growth of government spending.*

**Crime-Fighting Provisions**

**Amendment passed as part of S. 254, Juvenile Justice Reform Act**

*In an effort to punish criminals and retain the rights of law-abiding citizens, this amendment requires increased enforcement of existing gun laws, increases penalties for firearm and drug offenses, criminalizes Internet communications involving firearms and explosives, requires a study on the feasibility of a fingerprint instant background check system, and makes gun show background checks mandatory using the National Instant Check System (NICS).*

**Crime-Fighting Provision Involving Paroled Felons**

**Amendment passed as part of S. 254**

*Would enact "Aimee's Law," which provides that if a person is paroled in one state for murder, rape, or a sexual offense and then convicted of any of those offenses in a second state, the first state must pay (out of federal funds that would have gone to the first state) the second state's costs for apprehending, prosecuting, and incarcerating the felon. The amendment applies only to states that have not adopted stringent sentencing rules.*

**Deceptive Mail Prevention and Enforcement Act**

**Public Law 106-168 (S. 335)**

*Protects consumers from fraudulent or misleading practices of those who send promotional materials, such as sweepstakes and skill contests, by mail. The bill strengthens the prohibition against so-called "government look-alike" mailings intended to deceive recipients.*

**Deploring Clemency for Terrorists**

**Passed Senate (S.J. Res. 33)**

*Resolves that making concessions to terrorists is deplorable, and that President Clinton should not have granted clemency to terrorists of the FALN (Armed Forces of National Liberation, a terrorist group advocating Puerto Rican independence).*

## **Drug Anti-Proliferation Act**

### **Passed Senate as amendment to S. 625, Bankruptcy Reform Act**

*Combats drug trafficking and abuse, especially among children, by deterring and punishing users of methamphetamine, toughening sentences on powder cocaine use, and providing tougher sentences for distribution of drugs to students.*

## **Drug Kingpin Act**

### **Public Law 106-120 (included in H.R. 1555)**

This critical law provides a powerful new tool in our fight against illegal drugs: it blocks the U.S.-held assets of major foreign drug kingpins and prevents them from accessing U.S. markets – that is, using U.S. economic power to undercut the financial base of the cartels and their kingpins.

## **Education Flexibility Partnership Act (“Ed-Flex”)**

### **Public Law 106-25 (H.R. 800/S. 280)**

*Ensures excellence in education by freeing local school districts from oppressive mandates and promoting local choice and quality, as well as providing for special needs of certain children.*

## **Emergency Aid to Farmers**

### **Public Law 106-78 (H.R. 1906)**

*As a result of the continuing farm crisis, this law provides \$8.7 billion in emergency aid to affected farmers in the form of market loss payments, crop loss assistance, and other help.*

## **Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999**

### **Public Law 106-107 (S. 468)**

*Streamlines federal assistance programs and facilitates greater coordination among federal agencies and their non-federal partners.*

## **Financial Services Modernization Act**

### **Public Law 106-102 (S. 900)**

*Overhauls the financial services industry by eliminating outdated Depression-era laws that have long hampered the industry’s ability to increase its efficiency. Consumers will benefit from reduced costs and increased financial services.*

## **Foster Care Independence Act**

### **Public Law 106-169 (H.R. 3443)**

*Provides additional funding and flexibility for states to prepare foster-care teenagers to live on their own, and sets new procedures to crack down on fraud and abuse within the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.*

## **High-Quality Teacher Assurance Act**

### **Public Law 106-113 (H.R. 3194)**

*Ensures our schools have more high-quality teachers by giving local educators added flexibility to use federal funds for teacher training instead of simply hiring new teachers who may or may not be qualified.*

## **Juvenile Justice Reform Act**

### **Passed the Senate (S. 254/H.R. 1501)**

*Modernizes federal grant programs that give aid for juvenile law enforcement and juvenile crime prevention efforts, strengthens federal laws to hold juveniles accountable for crimes they commit, and enacts measures to increase safety at schools and limit children's exposure to depictions of violence.*

## **Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act**

### **Public Law 106-78 (originally S. 1672)**

*Requires mandatory price reporting for livestock packers, thereby providing up-to-date price information to hog and cattle producers.*

## **Media Content Ratings and Labels**

### **Passed as an amendment to the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (S. 254)**

*Waives antitrust rules so that the entertainment industry can develop and enforce voluntary guidelines for television, movies, video games, music, and the Internet, thus providing American families with greater ability to avoid entertainment they find inappropriate or offensive, and to hold the industries accountable.*

## **Medicare Reimbursement Act**

### **Public Law 106-113 (H.R. 3194)**

*Provides \$12 billion over five years in increased Medicare funding to benefit virtually every area of Medicare activity, including hospitals, medical education, home health care providers, and nursing homes; this action corrects Medicare reimbursement policies from the 1997 Balanced Budget Act that resulted in greater-than-anticipated savings.*

## **Military Bill of Rights and Readiness Enhancements**

### **Public Law 106-65 (S. 1059)**

*Responds to declining morale in the military by providing both a cost-of-living increase and assurances that future pay raises be greater than the rate of inflation; it also provides improved retirement, health care, and education benefits; increases funding for depleted military readiness accounts; and restructures U.S. nuclear weapons laboratories so as to avoid future occurrences of espionage.*

## **Military Quality of Life Enhancements**

**Public Law 106-52 (H.R. 2465)**

*Provides a better quality of life for U.S. troops and their families through additional funds for troop housing, hospital and medical facilities, new family housing units, and improvements to existing family housing.*

**Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act**

**Public Law 106-159 (H.R. 3419)**

*Establishes a more independent agency within the Department of Transportation to carry out the duty of the interim Office of Motor Carrier Safety, and reforms truck safety laws.*

**National Missile Defense Act**

**Public Law 106-38 (H.R. 4)**

*Long sought, this law makes it the policy of the United States to deploy a missile defense system to defend the country as soon as one is technologically feasible.*

**Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments of 1999**

**Public Law 106-4 (H.R. 540)**

*Responds to the problem of Medicaid recipients' evictions from nursing homes by affording nursing home residents protection from discharge or transfer if the nursing home decides to withdraw from the Medicaid program.*

**Palestinian State Claim Opposed**

**Passed House and Senate (H. Con. Res. 24)**

*Expresses congressional opposition to the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state, and urges the President to assert clearly United States opposition to such a unilateral declaration.*

**Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act**

**Passed the House and Senate (S. 1692/H.R. 3660)**

*Defends the sanctity of innocent human life by prohibiting a heinous procedure known as partial-birth abortion.*

**Patent Protection for American Inventors**

**Public Law 106-113 (H.R. 3194)**

*A high priority of America's high-tech industries, this legislation modernizes and reforms America's successful patent system; among its reforms are reducing patent filing fees, providing a "first inventor" defense, and guaranteeing a minimum 17-year patent term.*

**Patients' Bill of Rights – Plus Act**

**In House-Senate conference (S. 1344)**

*Provides patient protections and increases access to health insurance by making Medical Savings Accounts available to all Americans, accelerating full deductibility for the self-employed, and making long-term care insurance more affordable — in stark contrast to a Democrat alternative that would have increased costs to patients and canceled coverage for two million Americans.*

**Privacy for Banking Rights Assured**

**Clinton officials withdraw regulations after Senate unanimously rejects tabling motion (amendment offered to S. 280)**

*Following a unanimous vote in the Senate, Clinton Administration officials were persuaded to withdraw controversial regulations, called “Know Your Customer,” which would have required federal banking agencies, including the FDIC, to monitor their customers’ banking transactions at every bank and thrift in America, and in some cases report these transactions to the Federal Government absent the evidence of wrongdoing!*

**Religious Memorials for Slain Students**

**Amendment passed as part of S. 254**

*Provides legal assistance and some protection from legal costs to a public school that may choose to use religious references in memorials to slain students, and expresses the opinion of the U.S. Congress that such religious references do not conflict with the Constitution.*

**Satellite Communications Competition and Privatization Act**

**Public Law 106-180 (S. 376)**

*Encourages privatization in the international satellite communications market and permits a merger between two major corporations. Importantly for consumers, the bill provides that international satellite organizations no longer will enjoy government preferences that insulated them from competition, regulatory authority, tax liabilities, and antitrust restrictions.*

**Satellite Home Viewers Improvement Act**

**Public Law 106-113 (H.R. 3194), (originally H.R. 1554)**

*Pro-consumer legislation which allows satellite companies for the first time to beam local broadcast signals to customers who use either satellite dishes or big backyard dishes. The bill also protects Americans’ privacy by prohibiting the Corporation for Public Broadcasting from distributing its donor lists to political parties.*

**School Violence Victims’ Assistance Act**

**Passed Senate as part of anti-drug amendment to S. 625, Bankruptcy Reform Act**

*Allows local educators the authority to use their federal funds to pay the supplementary costs for a student who has been the victim of violence on school grounds to attend another school — public or private.*

**Self-Employed Health Insurance Fairness Act**

**Passed Senate as part of Financial Freedom Act (H.R. 2488), vetoed by the President**

**Passed Senate as part of Patients' Bill of Rights – Plus Act (S. 1344)**

**Passed Senate as amendment to S. 625, Bankruptcy Reform Act**

*Allows full deductibility of health insurance costs for the self-employed, finally providing equal tax treatment between those who work for themselves and those who work for others.*

**Small Business Advocacy Review Panel Act**

**Passed the Senate (S. 1156)**

*Expands the Small Business Advocacy Review Panel process to include the Internal Revenue Service. This new review process has already allowed small businesses to participate in rule-making by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.*

**Small Business Investment Improvement Act**

**Public Law 106-9 (H.R. 68/S. 364)**

*Makes more investment capital available to small businesses that are seeking to grow and hire new employees.*

**Small Business Loan Program Improvements**

**Public Law 106-22 (H.R. 440)**

*Improves the provisions and frees up the capital of the Small Business Act's Microloan Program, which makes loans and provides technical assistance to prospective small business owners for startup or materials and equipment costs.*

**Small Business Tax Incentives**

**Passed Senate as part of S. 625, Bankruptcy Reform Act**

*Assures small businesses some \$75 billion in tax relief (including healthcare deductions and pension reform) in order to offset the impact of a further increase in the minimum wage (this increase would be in addition to the more-than-20-percent raise in the wage floor already instituted over the past two years) insisted on by Democrats.*

**Small Business Year 2000 Readiness Act**

**Public Law 106-8 (S. 314)**

*Requires the federal government to establish a limited-term loan program expressly to aid small businesses that were having difficulty obtaining the necessary capital to upgrade their information technology and other automated systems to assure they became "Y2K-compliant" so that their business operations would not be interrupted after January 1, 2000.*

**Social Security "Lockbox"**

**Passed House; filibustered in Senate by Democrats**

*Protects the Social Security surplus by requiring that funds in the Social Security trust fund only be used for payment of Social Security benefits. Democrats in the Senate filibustered the Senate bill on six different occasions.*

**Tax Cut for the Middle Class: Financial Freedom Act**

**Vetoed by the President (H.R. 2488)**

*Provided the largest middle-class tax cut since Ronald Reagan was in the White House, returning surplus taxpayer money to those who paid it, while still protecting the Social Security surplus. Specifically, the bill included: a one-percent rate reduction for all tax brackets; virtually eliminated the marriage penalty; eliminated the estate "death" tax over the next 10 years; provided capital gains tax relief; created incentives and savings for future retirees; and provided tax deductions to make quality health care more accessible and affordable — for a tax relief total of \$792 billion over 10 years.*

### **Tax Relief for Middle-Class, R&D, and Welfare Employment Opportunity**

#### **Public Law 106-170 (H.R. 1180)**

*Provides \$18 billion over 10 years in tax relief by extending the Research & Development tax credit, granting relief to those who file using the Alternative Minimum Tax form, and by extending the Work Opportunity tax credit and the Welfare-to-Work tax credit, both of which encourage employers to hire former welfare recipients.*

### **Teacher Liability Protection Act**

#### **Passed the Senate as amendment to Juvenile Justice Reform**

*Protects teachers from lawsuits aimed at actions taken within the scope of the teacher's employment or responsibilities relating to providing educational services, with limits on punitive damages and liability for non-economic loss.*

### **Trade Expansion Bill**

#### **Passed Senate and House (H.R. 434) (Senate requests a conference)**

*Renews and expands the president's authority to relax tariffs to promote free and open trade — particularly with respect to Sub-Saharan Africa and the countries of the Caribbean Basin — while renewing trade adjustment assistance to workers and firms adversely affected by imports.*

### **Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act**

#### **Public Law 106-50 (H.R. 1568)**

*Assures the Department of Veterans Affairs offers programs that provide assistance to veterans who own small businesses, and establishes the National Veterans Business Development Corporation that expands and improves veterans' access to technical assistance and promotes entrepreneurship.*

### **Veterans' Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act**

#### **Public Law 106-117 (H.R. 2116)**

*Establishes a program of extended care services for veterans and makes improvements in accessibility, timeliness, and quality of health care programs for veterans, and improves other benefits.*

### **Wireless Telecommunications and Public Safety Act**

#### **Public Law 106-81 (S. 800)**

*Designates “911” as the universal emergency number for all phones — wire-line and wireless — and expands the areas covered by wireless telephone service.*

### **Women’s Business Centers Sustainability Act**

#### **Public Law 106-165 (S. 791)**

*Allows private organizations that already have received federal grants to receive additional funding, which comes in part from non-federal sources, to provide ongoing training and management support to small businesswomen.*

### **Work Incentives Improvement Act**

#### **Public Law 106-170 (H.R. 1180)**

*Reforms federal disability programs by improving access to needed services and removing barriers to work so that disabled individuals may work and increase their income without losing their disability cash benefits and their federal health care benefits.*

### **Year 2000 Readiness and Responsibility Act**

#### **Public Law 106-37 (H.R. 775/S. 96)**

*Protects working Americans from having to subsidize hefty legal costs from frivolous lawsuits fueled by anticipated economic consequences of Year 2000 computer problems; this law gave employers incentives to fix possible computer problems before they became lawsuit targets.*

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