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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Speech	Remarks at Bill Signing for the 21st Century Cures Act, The White House, December 13, 2016 - From: Lechtenberg	2	12/12/2016	P6/b6; Transferred

COLLECTION TITLE:

Records Management, White House Office of (WHORM)

SERIES:

Subject Files - SP2576 (Remarks at the Bill Signing for the 21st Century Cures Act, 12/13/2016)

FOLDER TITLE:

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RESTRICTION CODES

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- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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Records Management, White House Office of (WHORM)

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Update

**Executive Office of The President
Barcode Scanning Sheet**



Collection Code: **SECLOG**

Staff Name:

Document Date: **December 13, 2016**

Correspondent:

Subject/Description: **PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS AT THE BILL SIGNING FOR
THE 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT, THE WHITE HOUSE,
DEC 13 16**

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P6/b(6)

**Remarks of President Barack Obama
Bill Signing for the 21st Century Cures Act
The White House
December 13, 2016**

Welcome to the White House, everybody. It's December, so it's holiday time here at the White House. And we thought this was a good occasion for another party. So I want to thank Joe for his leadership, as well as David and Kate Grubb for sharing their family's story. And we're joined by many Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle who worked together to bring us here today.

Over the last eight years, one of my highest priorities as President has been to unleash the full force of American innovation on the biggest challenges we face. That's meant restoring science to its rightful place, funding the research and development that's always kept America on the cutting edge, and investing in the clean energy that's created a steady stream of good jobs and helped America become the world leader in combating climate change.

It's also meant investing in the medical breakthroughs that have the power to cure disease and help us live healthier, longer lives. I started off 2016 by saying in my State of the Union Address that we might be able to surprise the cynics and deliver bipartisan action on the opioid epidemic. That same speech, I put Joe in charge of Mission Control on a new Cancer Moonshot. And today, with the 21st Century Cures Act, we're making both of those efforts – and more – a reality, bringing us closer to new breakthroughs on some of the greatest health challenges of our time.

First, this legislation will combat the heroin and prescription opioid epidemic that's ravaging far too many families across the country. This is an epidemic that can touch anybody – blue collar or white collar; college students, retirees, or moms and dads. I've had the chance to meet folks in recovery, working hard every day to sustain their progress. I've met parents like the Grubbs, who've worked tirelessly to help a child struggling with addiction. And it couldn't be clearer that those of us called upon to lead this country have a duty to act on their behalf. So today, I'm proud that this legislation takes up the charge I laid out in my Budget to provide \$1 billion in funding, so that Americans who want treatment can get started on the path to recovery. It's the right thing to do – and families are ready for this support.

Second, the Cures Act provides a decade's worth of support for two innovative initiatives from my Administration. The first is the BRAIN Initiative, which we believe will revolutionize our understanding of the human mind. And when I sign this bill, we'll give researchers new resources to help identify ways to treat, cure, and prevent brain disorders like Alzheimer's, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, and more. We'll also support our Precision Medicine Initiative, an effort we started to use data to help modernize research and accelerate discoveries, so that treatments and health care can be tailored specifically to individual patients. And this spring, with the help of this bill, the National Institutes of Health will launch a groundbreaking research cohort, inviting Americans from across the country to participate to support the scientific breakthroughs of tomorrow.

Third, the Cures Act improves mental health care. It includes bipartisan reforms to address serious mental illness. It takes steps to make sure that mental health and substance use disorders are treated fairly by insurance companies, building on the work of my Presidential Task Force. It reauthorizes meaningful suicide prevention programs. And many of these reforms align with my Administration's work to improve our criminal justice system, helping us enhance data collection and take steps so that we're not unnecessarily incarcerating folks who need mental health assistance.

Fourth, we're building on the FDA's work to modernize clinical trial design, and we're making sure that patients' voices are incorporated into the drug development process.

And finally, the Cures Act invests in a breakthrough effort that we've been calling the Vice President's Cancer Moonshot. But I think the Senate came up with a better name for it when they named it after Beau Biden.

Like Joe, and like many of you, I believe that the United States of America should be the country that ends cancer once and for all. We're already closer than a lot of folks might think. And this bill will bring us even closer, investing in promising new therapies, developing vaccines, and improving cancer detection and prevention. And ultimately, it will help us reach our goal of getting a decade's worth of research done in half the time.

In this effort, Joe Biden has rallied not just Congress, but also a tremendous collection of researchers, doctors, philanthropists, patients, and others. And he's showing us that with the right investments and the ingenuity of the American people, as he says, "there isn't anything we can't do." So everybody, please join me in thanking one of the finest Vice Presidents that America has ever known – Joe Biden.

So we're tackling cancer, brain diseases, substance use disorders, and more. And none of this work would have been possible without bipartisan cooperation in both houses of Congress. That includes Senators Alexander and Murphy, Chairman Fred Upton, and Representatives Pallone [pa-LONE], DeGette [de-GET], and Green. And we couldn't have gotten it across the finish line without the leadership of Nancy Pelosi or Steny Hoyer. / *other leaders?*

So I want to thank all of you for your work on behalf of the American people. These efforts build on the work we've done to strengthen our health system over the last eight years – covering pre-existing conditions, expanding coverage for mental health and substance use disorders, helping more than 20 million Americans know the security of health insurance, and more thanks to the Affordable Care Act. And I'm hopeful in the years ahead, Congress can keep working together to move us forward, not backward, in support of the health of our people. Because these are real gains that make a real difference for millions of Americans.

So this is a good day. I'm confident it will lead to better years and better lives for millions of Americans. Because that's what this is all about. And with that, I think it's time to sign the 21st Century Cures Act into law.

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