

Dear Mr. Raines:

The Assassination Records Review Board recommends that the President sign into law H.R. 1553, which amends the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 to extend the authorization of the Review Board until September 30, 1998 and to authorize \$1.6 million.

The President recognized the importance of providing the Board with a final year to finish its work by including \$1.6 million for the Review Board in his 1997 budget request. Signing the bill to extend the life of the Board would be consistent with President's past support of the Board's efforts as well as with his continuing interest in the reduction of government secrecy.

We are extremely gratified that Congress acted so quickly and decisively to extend our life. The broad bipartisan support is a testament to the deep public interest in the mission of the Review Board. We encourage the President to act as quickly as possible to sign H.R. 1553 so that we can look forward with confidence to finishing our task.

Sincerely,

DGM