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### **Bush Administration Slashes Paperwork and Regulatory Burdens**

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a new report today showing that the Bush Administration is making significant progress towards streamlining and simplifying the federal paperwork and regulatory burdens.

“The progress we have made is a direct result of the President’s leadership. Reining-in regulatory costs is a critical part of the President’s six-point plan to stimulate the economy, create jobs and foster economic prosperity for all Americans,” said Dr. John D. Graham, Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs who testified before Congress today.

Highlights of the new data and Dr. Graham’s testimony include:

- The overall burden of government-mandated paperwork declined in Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 for the first time since FY 1996. The overall volume of paperwork burden has declined in only eight of the 24 years since the Paperwork Reduction Act was passed.
- The magnitude of the decline was 1.5 percent compared to FY 2002. Although that percentage seems small, it amounts to about 100 million fewer hours of citizens and businesses dealing with paperwork and recordkeeping. Specific federal agency actions were responsible for 53 million fewer hours of paperwork. If Congress had not passed new paperwork-producing laws in that year, the reduction would have been 111 million hours larger.
- The number of paperwork violations—instances where regulators impose burdens on citizens and businesses without authorization from Congress and OMB—has plummeted during the Bush Administration. In FY 2000 there were 200 unresolved violations; in FY 2003 the number was less than 20, a 90 percent reduction. This progress reflects OMB’s new “zero-tolerance” policy on paperwork violations.
- The growth of major regulatory cost burdens has also declined sharply during the Bush Administration. OMB’s data reveal that from 1987 through 2003 there were \$103.6 billion in new regulatory burdens imposed on the economy (i.e., unfunded mandates on the private sector and state/local governments). The average annual increase during the 17-year period was \$6.1 billion. In the first 32 months of the Bush Administration, the average annual increase in burden was \$1.6 billion, a cut of roughly 80 percent in the growth of the regulatory state.
- The included chart shows how regulatory burdens have grown under the Reagan Administration (1987-88 only), the Bush Administration (1989-1992), the Clinton Administration (1993-2000), and the current Bush Administration (2001-2003).

The new report, charts, and the official OMB testimony are available on OMB’s web site at [www.omb.gov](http://www.omb.gov).

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