



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503**

THE DIRECTOR

July 21, 2005

M-05-20

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Joshua B. Bolten
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JB", written over the printed name of Joshua B. Bolten.

SUBJECT: Statutory provision on Video News Releases

This is a follow-up to my memorandum to you of March 11, 2005 (M-05-10), regarding the use of government funds for video news releases.

Subsequent to the March 11th memorandum, Congress addressed the use of funds by an Executive Branch agency for the production of a "prepackaged news story." Section 6076 of the Fiscal Year 2005 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Public Law 109-13) provides that:

"Unless otherwise authorized by existing law, none of the funds provided in this Act or any other Act, may be used by an executive branch agency to produce any prepackaged news story intended for broadcast or distribution in the United States unless the story includes a clear notification within the text or audio of the prepackaged news story that the prepackaged news story was prepared or funded by that executive branch agency."

It is important that government communications with the public adhere to the highest legal and ethical standards. As noted in my March 11th memorandum, Executive Branch agencies must fully comply with applicable laws and should conduct such review as is necessary to ensure that their practices are fully compliant. Questions about the applicability of Section 6076 to particular factual situations should be resolved in consultation with an agency's general counsel, who in turn should consult the Office of Legal Counsel at the Department of Justice should there be a need for further guidance.