

BUILDING THE ECONOMY FROM THE MIDDLE OUT AND BOTTOM UP

When the President and Vice President came into office, America faced historic challenges, including a once-in-a-century pandemic and an economy experiencing the most severe downturn since the Great Depression. From day one, the President moved swiftly to tackle these challenges head-on and has delivered long-lasting results. Over the past three years, the President has overseen a strong economic recovery, amassed one of the most successful legislative records in generations, sought to grow the economy by growing the middle class, and delivered important progress for the American people.

Since the President took office, the economy has added about 15 million jobs. That is about 15 million additional Americans who know the peace of mind that comes with a paycheck. The unemployment rate has remained below four percent for 24 months in a row—a more than 50-year record—while inflation has fallen by two-thirds. Our strong labor market has meant higher paychecks, driven by pay increases across the middle class. Workers' paychecks and household wealth are higher now than they were before the pandemic—including after adjusting for inflation. Higher pay has spurred strong consumer spending and business investment. Americans have filed a record 16 million applications to start businesses—the highest number ever over a three-year span. Under President Biden, the Nation has achieved faster growth than any of America's peer nations and now has the lowest core inflation of almost any other major economy.

The President's top economic priority is lowering costs for hardworking Americans. The Administration is working to bring down prescription drug costs, health insurance premiums, utility bills, and costs for everyday goods—all while taking on junk fees that some airlines, banks, and other companies use to rip off Americans.

The President has lowered costs while investing in America and the American people. The President's Investing in America agenda, which includes his landmark legislation—the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), the CHIPS and Science Act (Public Law 117-167), and the Inflation Reduction Act (Public Law 117-169)—is driving record investment and opportunity in communities across the Nation, including those that have been too often left behind. The President has led a historic economic recovery, implemented the Investing in America agenda, and worked to lower costs for Americans, while also keeping Americans safe and promoting democracy at home and abroad.

As the President said, “the story of America is a story of progress and resilience, of always moving forward, of never, ever giving up. It's a story unique among all nations. We're the only country that has emerged from every crisis we've ever entered stronger than we got into it.” Under the President's leadership, the Administration is focused on building on this record of progress as we write the next chapter in the great American story.

LOWERING COSTS AND PUTTING MONEY BACK IN AMERICANS' POCKETS

Over the past three years, the global pandemic and Putin's illegal war against the people of Ukraine have led to inflation all over the world. The President has made it his top domestic priority to lower costs and give American families more breathing room. Under the President's leadership, the Nation has seen significant progress in bringing down inflation. Over the last six months of 2023, core inflation was at the pre-COVID-19 pandemic benchmark of two percent—with average hourly earnings adjusted for inflation higher now than before the COVID-19 pandemic and rising faster than inflation over the last year. The Administration has consistently taken steps to lower a range of costs and put more money back into American's pockets.

Lowering Healthcare Costs

The President signed into law the historic Inflation Reduction Act, which is helping millions of Americans save an average of \$800 per year on health insurance by extending the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Affordable Care Act) enhanced premium tax credit, helping drive enrollment in Affordable Care Act health insurance to record-breaking highs. The historic legislation also capped the cost of insulin at \$35 a month for seniors per insulin prescription, made recommended vaccines free, and is requiring drug companies to pay rebates to Medicare if they raise prices faster than inflation. Under the President's leadership, the Administration has taken on Big Pharma to finally allow Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices—starting with ten of the costliest, most widely used drugs used to treat blood clots, cancers, arthritis, diabetes, and more. The Administration has also cracked down on surprise medical bills, preventing Americans from receiving more than one million surprise medical bills every month, and is also including an allowance to ban unwarranted “facility fees” for telehealth and certain other outpatient services in commercial insurance.

Bringing Down Energy and Internet Costs

The President has taken action to bring gas prices down—since their peak, average gas prices for Americans have come down more than \$1.60 per gallon. The President's historic Inflation Reduction Act is directly investing in communities while also spurring hundreds of billions of dollars in private sector investment—in wind, solar, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, and more—creating economic opportunities, lowering energy costs across the Nation, and improving public health. The Inflation Reduction Act is expected to help families save an average of \$500 per year on energy costs once fully implemented. The President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law created the Affordable Connectivity Program, which has helped 23 million households save more than \$500 million per month on internet bills.

Forgiving Historic Amounts of Student Debt and Launching the Most Affordable Repayment Plan Ever

The President has made history by approving a total of over \$137 billion in debt cancellation for over 3.7 million Americans through a variety of actions, including by taking on private, for-profit universities that have scammed hard-working Americans. The Administration launched the most affordable student loan repayment plan ever—the Saving on a Valuable Education plan—which will cut undergraduate loan payments in half and prevent student loan balances from growing due to runaway interest. To alleviate the burden of student loan debt for hard-working public servants, the Administration has helped almost 750,000 people access Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). Prior to the Administration's fixes to PSLF, only about 7,000 borrowers had received forgiveness. The President has also signed legislation increasing the maximum Pell Grant by \$900 since the beginning of the Administration—the largest increase in nearly 10 years—making college more affordable.

Lowering Housing Costs

The President and Vice President understand that housing affordability remains a challenge for too many families. However, we are making progress: homeownership is higher now than it was before the COVID-19 pandemic, including for African Americans and Hispanic Americans; rental costs have moderated in the last year; and a record number of apartments are under construction—which should ease the burden of housing costs going forward. With the Housing Supply Action Plan, the Administration is making progress toward reducing the growth of housing costs by increasing supply, including through reducing barriers to housing and offering new and improved financing for affordable housing development. In 2023, the Administration lowered Federal Housing Administration annual mortgage insurance premiums by about one-third, saving more than 400,000 Americans—including many first-time homebuyers—approximately \$800 over the first year of the mortgage with continued savings in subsequent years. To lower rental costs for those who need it most, the Administration has secured rental assistance for over 100,000 additional low-income households for the Housing Choice Voucher program, guaranteeing rents at 30 percent of those families' incomes.

Taking on Junk Fees

Junk fees are hidden, surprise fees that companies sneak onto customer bills, costing American families tens of billions of dollars each year and stifling competition across the economy. The President has taken junk fees head on by directing his Administration to use every available tool to address them and lower costs for the American people—including by cracking down on hidden junk fees in airline tickets, banking, investment advice, health insurance, and apartment rentals. The Administration has pushed banks to reduce overdraft and bounced check fees, saving

consumers more than \$5 billion a year compared to pre-COVID-19 pandemic. The Federal Trade Commission has proposed rules to ban companies from charging hidden and misleading fees and require them to show the full price up front, and to require sellers to make it as easy for consumers to cancel their enrollment as it was to sign up—rescuing consumers from difficulties cancelling unwanted subscriptions like gym memberships. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has proposed a rule that would lower credit card late fees from approximately \$30 to \$8, saving consumers up to \$9 billion annually. To help stop conduct like price fixing or price gouging in grocery stores, the Department of Agriculture has announced a new partnership with bipartisan State attorneys general. In addition, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has called on industry, housing providers, and State and local governments to adopt policies that promote greater fairness and transparency of fees faced by renters.

Taking on Unfair Wage Practices to Put Money Back in Americans' Pockets

The Biden-Harris Administration has recovered more than \$770 million for more than 485,000 workers across the Nation by enforcing laws that protect these workers from being victims of wage theft and exploitation, including when they were not paid minimum wages or hard-earned overtime wages, were denied their tips, or were misclassified as independent contractors. The Administration has proposed a new rule to extend overtime pay for up to an additional 3.6 million workers by raising the income threshold, meaning workers like fast-food managers or executive assistants could get their well-deserved overtime pay. In addition, the Vice President announced the publication of a final rule that will raise wage standards of construction workers by updating prevailing wage regulations, affecting more than one million workers constructing \$200 billion in federally funded or assisted projects.

Delivering on a Commitment to Fiscal Responsibility

The deficit is over \$1 trillion lower than when President Biden took office, thanks in large part to a strong economic recovery facilitated by investments that have expanded the Nation's productive capacity and a historic vaccination program that allowed the responsible wind-down of emergency measures. In addition, the President has also enacted another roughly \$1 trillion in savings over the next decade through the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, and through the Inflation Reduction Act provisions that empower Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices, cap insulin at \$35 per month for seniors, and make the wealthy and large corporations pay more of their fair share. To address the unfairness of 55 of the most profitable U.S. corporations paying zero dollars in Federal income taxes, the President signed into law a 15-percent

minimum tax on the profits of the largest corporations—those with over \$1 billion in profits. He also signed into law a surcharge on corporate stock buybacks, which encourages businesses to invest in their growth and productivity as opposed to funneling tax-preferred profits to wealthy shareholders. The Inflation Reduction Act also enacted long-overdue investments in rebuilding and modernizing the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which raise revenue by making wealthy taxpayers and big corporations pay the taxes they owe—while improving customer service and without increasing audit rates relative to historical levels for small businesses and taxpayers making under \$400,000 per year. The Budget would build on this progress by increasing the corporate minimum tax rate to 21 percent, quadrupling the surcharge on stock buybacks, extending the IRS investment, and other important reforms, resulting in about \$3 trillion of deficit reduction even after financing the Budget's investments.

INVESTING IN AMERICA AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

As the President takes action to lower costs and grow the economy from the middle out and bottom up, he is also investing in America and the American people—expanding access to healthcare and improving women's health, building the next generation of American infrastructure, empowering American workers and families, advancing equity across the Nation, delivering on the most ambitious climate agenda in history, and ensuring the dignity of honoring America's sacred obligation to its veterans.

Expanding Access to Healthcare

The President believes healthcare is a right, not a privilege. The Administration continues to build on and strengthen the Affordable Care Act—and Americans are enrolled in record numbers. A record-breaking 21.3 million Americans signed up for healthcare coverage through the Affordable Care Act Marketplaces for 2024, an increase of more than nine million people since the President took office. In addition, over one million people in the four States that have adopted the

Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion under the President's watch have gained Medicaid coverage, many for the first time. The Vice President has also continued her leadership on addressing the maternal health crisis and its disparate impacts, particularly on Black women. Since taking office, over 40 States have answered her call to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage from two months to 12—expanding access to this essential care for mothers across the Nation.

Investing in Women's Health Research

Despite making up more than half the population, women have historically been understudied and underrepresented in health research. This lack of investment limits the understanding of conditions that are specific to women, predominantly affect women, or affect women differently. In order to give women and their healthcare providers the tools and information that they need to more effectively prevent, diagnose, and treat these conditions, the President and First Lady launched the first-ever White House Initiative on Women's Health Research—which will galvanize

the Federal Government and the private and philanthropic sectors to spur innovation, unleash transformative investment to close research gaps, and improve women's health.

Defending and Protecting Reproductive Rights and Healthcare

Twenty-seven million women of reproductive age—more than one in three—live in one of the 21 States with an abortion ban currently in effect. In the last year, women have been denied medical care needed to preserve their health and save their lives. In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn nearly 50 years of precedent in *Roe v. Wade*, the President has signed Executive Orders to: protect access to abortion, including medication abortion; strengthen access to contraception; help ensure women receive the medical care they need in an emergency; and support women's ability to travel across State lines to access care. The Administration has also strengthened privacy protections for patients and doctors, and defended in court women's ability to access medication abortion and emergency medical care required under Federal law. The Administration continues to call on the Congress to pass legislation restoring the protections of *Roe v. Wade* in Federal law.

Ensuring Robust Access to Mental Healthcare

The President believes mental health is health, particularly given the unprecedented mental health crisis impacting people of all ages that was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the Administration's Unity Agenda, President Biden released a comprehensive national strategy to transform how mental health is understood, accessed, treated, and integrated in and out of healthcare settings. The Administration has made historic investments in mental healthcare, including nearly \$1 billion to support the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. The Administration is also committed to investing in training more mental health professionals, and is expanding

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics nationwide. In addition, the Administration has taken action to improve and strengthen mental health parity requirements for mental health and substance use care, and ensure that more than 150 million Americans with private health insurance can better access mental health benefits under their insurance plan. The Biden-Harris Administration is also implementing the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act—the single largest investment to support student mental health in history, which will help hire and train over 14,000 school-based mental health professionals across the Nation. In addition, the Administration eliminated the first three copays for mental health outpatient visits for veterans using their Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) benefits.

Delivering Critical Resources to Address the Overdose Epidemic

A key pillar of the President's Unity Agenda, the Administration has taken action to counter the overdose epidemic and save Americans' lives. The Administration has made this issue a top priority, and taken historic actions over the past three years to address substance use, enhance public health, strengthen public safety, and save lives. With the President's leadership, the Administration has provided historic funding to States, localities, and Tribes for overdose prevention efforts like access to naloxone and treatment for opioid-use disorder. In addition, the Administration requested \$1.6 billion in supplemental funding for 2024 in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expand substance use prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery support services to address the overdose crisis.

Building the Next Generation of American Infrastructure and Igniting an Economic Resurgence

The President signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the largest infrastructure

bill since the Eisenhower Administration, and has already announced \$400 billion for 40,000 infrastructure projects across 4,500 communities throughout every State in the Nation. This includes over \$250 billion to improve transportation all across the Nation—from better roads and bridges, to improved airports, to more reliable public transit and rail service. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is investing in rural communities alongside urban ones—it invests in affordable, reliable high-speed internet infrastructure, clean drinking water, and reliable electricity.

The President's Inflation Reduction Act has unleashed a manufacturing and clean energy boom—spurring over \$600 billion in private sector investments since taking office, including more than \$160 billion announced investments in battery and EV supply chains. Clean energy projects that have moved forward since the President signed the historic law are already on track to create more than 210,000 new clean energy jobs across the Nation, and are projected to create more than 1.5 million additional jobs over the next decade, according to estimates by outside groups. In addition, the President signed the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, which is creating good jobs and driving American competitiveness in the industries of the future. As part of the implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act, the Department of Commerce announced 31 Tech Hubs that will help communities across the Nation become centers of innovation critical to American competitiveness.

Supporting Workers and Building Pathways to Good Jobs

President Biden is the most pro-worker President in history—and he is committed to building an economy from the middle out and bottom up. Together, he and Vice President Harris have committed to ensuring high labor standards, bringing workers' voices to the decision-making table, and enforcing rules against unfair labor practices—not just here at home, but around the world. Upholding common standards and protecting fundamental rights are key for American

workers and American companies to compete fairly in the global economy. The White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment, led by Vice President Harris, has championed the Administration's commitment to worker rights, including the right to a free and fair choice to join a union and to dignity in the workplace. As the President says, "unions built the middle class," and as we rebuild America, they can help rebuild the middle class in the process.

To expand access to the good jobs created by the President's historic legislation, the Administration has invested in pathways to jobs in growing sectors, supporting both critical workforce programs at community colleges and career pathways programs in the K-12 system through the first-ever Career-Connected High Schools grants. The First Lady announced the first five Workforce Hubs in cities with significant public- and private-sector investments and a new initiative to expand pathways to careers in advanced manufacturing, resulting in the launch of new Registered Apprenticeships, community college, and high school programs and partnerships to provide opportunities for more Americans to pursue careers in the industries that will continue to fuel the economy.

Rebuilding Supply Chains

When the President took office, supply chains were severely disrupted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Administration made supply chain resilience and response a top priority on day one, collaborating with industry and labor to address acute shortages and bottlenecks throughout the economy—and securing critical supply chain investments through the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act. As a result, critical supply chains are significantly more fluid and resilient than they were when the President took office. In addition, the President recently announced a new White House Council on Supply Chain Resilience, which will support the enduring resilience of America's critical supply chains.

Advancing Equity across the Nation

The President signed two Executive Orders on advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities, providing a powerful and unprecedented mandate for all Federal agencies to launch a whole-of-Government approach to equity. Over the past three years, agencies have taken historic steps toward ensuring that Federal programs are supporting communities that have been locked out of opportunity. The Administration's whole-of-Government work on equity has included key steps to decrease the racial wealth gap, including by expanding Federal contracting opportunities for small disadvantaged businesses and taking sweeping action to address racial bias in home valuations to ensure that every American who buys a home has the same opportunities to build generational wealth through homeownership. In addition, the Administration has tackled gender and racial pay gaps, including through salary history bans and pay transparency measures for Federal workers and contractors. The Administration has also deployed record investments to tribal nations and Native communities, including through the historic American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (American Rescue Plan) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The enactment of advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service for the first time in history will help ensure more stable, predictable funding and improved access to high quality healthcare. The President also continues to expand the reach of Rural Partners Network, which provides a targeted across-Government approach to accessing training, technical assistance, and programs to distressed rural communities, and creates a clear point-of-entry for rural leaders to utilize all Federal agencies' assistance for rural areas.

In Executive Order 14041, "White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)," President Biden charged the initiative to "develop new and expand pre-existing national networks of individuals, organizations, and communities to share and implement administrative and programmatic best practices related

to advancing educational equity, excellence, and opportunity at HBCUs." HBCUs are central to the Administration's vision of a more inclusive, equitable, and valuable higher education system. Under the President and Vice President's leadership, the Administration has secured tens of billions of dollars in funding for HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions to prepare students to contribute to the future in high-demand and high-income fields, like cybersecurity, engineering, biochemistry, and healthcare. The Administration also re-established the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for HBCUs to increase their participation in Federal programs that offer greater access to funding, ensuring HBCUs can continue to be engines of opportunity in the future.

Supporting K-12 Education

To deliver on the promise of education for all Americans, the Administration secured the largest investment in public education in history to help students get back to school and recover academically from the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on evidence-based strategies such as addressing chronic absenteeism and increasing student access to tutoring and summer, afterschool, and extended learning programs. The President's leadership has garnered substantial increases for Federal student support programs to meet the needs of historically underserved students. The Administration has provided record funding to Title I schools and made significant investments in the Nation's teachers. These investments are helping States in their efforts to address teacher shortages, which fall hardest on underserved students. Since the President took office, the Nation has added 73,000 public school teachers.

Increasing High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers

High-quality early care and long-term care are critical to the Nation's economic growth and economic security. Early care and education give

young children a strong start in life, while long-term care helps older Americans and people with disabilities live, work, and participate in their communities with dignity. Unfortunately, too many families and individuals struggle to access the affordable, high-quality care they need. In recognition of this need, the Administration invested over \$60 billion from the American Rescue Plan in the care economy, including \$24 billion to help child care providers keep their doors open and to provide child care workers with higher pay, bonuses, and other benefits. To date, these efforts have helped over 225,000 child care programs serving as many as 10 million children across the Nation.

The President's Council of Economic Advisers also found that these investments saved families with young children who rely on paid child care approximately \$1,250 per child per year by: slowing the rise of child care prices; increasing the real wages of child care workers by 10 percent; and boosting maternal labor-force participation by up to three percent, bringing hundreds of thousands of mothers into the workforce. The President also worked with the Congress to secure an additional \$2.1 billion in annual Child Care and Development Block Grant program funding since 2021, a 36-percent increase, to help low-income working families access the child care they need.

The Administration continues to call on the Congress to make significant new investments to give families in this Nation more breathing room when it comes to care. In April 2023, the President signed an Executive Order with the most comprehensive set of executive actions any president has ever taken to improve care for hard-working families while supporting care workers and family caregivers. Executive Order 14095, "Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers" charged agencies with working within their existing authorities to: lower the cost of care for families; boost the supply of high-quality early care and education and long-term care; provide more options for individuals and families increase access to affordable care for families; and improve job quality and support for care workers and caregivers. Agencies have made substantial

progress in implementing this Executive Order. VA launched a pilot program to provide mental health services to roughly 2,300 family caregivers who care for the Nation's heroes.

HHS has proposed major rulemaking to lower costs for families receiving Federal child care assistance and increase the pay for Head Start teachers. In addition, the Administration has also proposed actions to crack down on nursing homes that put seniors at risk, proposing minimum staffing requirements that would ensure every facility has enough nurses to provide necessary care, and expanded payments to clinicians who train caregivers for seniors and people with disabilities.

Honoring Our Sacred Obligation to Ensure the Dignity of America's Veterans, Military Service Members, and Their Families

President Biden believes we have a sacred obligation to care for the Nation's veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. Since taking office, the President has signed into law over 30 bipartisan bills that address some of the most important issues facing veterans today, including the Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 (PACT Act), which is the most significant expansion of benefits and services for veterans exposed to toxic substances in more than 30 years. The bipartisan PACT Act delivers better healthcare and benefits to veterans exposed to toxic burn pits during their military service. In addition, the President has called to end veterans' homelessness—and this year alone, the Administration permanently housed over 46,000 veterans, which far exceeded its goal of permanently housing 38,000 veterans. The Administration and the Congress have worked together to expand access to healthcare, improve access to child and long-term care, and support education and workforce opportunity for veterans and their families. In addition, the Administration also continues to deliver on veterans' services—in 2023 alone, VA delivered \$163 billion in earned benefits to 6.3 million veterans and survivors.

Meeting the economic, social, and emotional needs of America's military and veteran families as well as military and veteran caregivers and surviving family members is also a national security imperative. As part of her Joining Forces initiative to support military and veteran spouses, military caregivers, and survivors, the First Lady has championed meaningful policy solutions to improve military spouse employment and entrepreneurship, military children's education, and military family mental health and wellbeing. President Biden signed the most comprehensive set of executive actions by any President to advance military family economic security and make the Federal Government the employer of choice for the military-connected community. The Administration: established Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts for service members; funded universal pre-school for military children living overseas; expanded child care options for military families; increased the amount of child care fee assistance available to offset costs; and reduced military child development center costs for lower income military families by 30 percent.

Delivering on the Most Ambitious Climate Agenda in History

Since day one, President Biden has delivered on the most ambitious climate, conservation, and environmental justice agenda in history—taking bold action to reduce climate pollution across

every sector of the economy, protecting more than 26 million acres of lands and waters, and restoring the vital role of science in guiding Federal decision-making. The President signed the largest investment in climate action ever with the Inflation Reduction Act—resulting in 210,000 new clean energy jobs created by clean energy projects that have moved forward in the year and a half since the passage of the law, according to estimates by outside groups. The President has also taken bold executive action to cut emissions across the economy, including strong final standards to reduce methane pollution from oil and gas operations. As a result of the President's leadership and economic plan, clean energy jobs are on the rise across the Nation, companies have announced hundreds of billions of dollars in clean energy investments, and the United States is on a path toward cutting carbon pollution in half from 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050. While tackling the climate crisis, the President is using the Justice40 Initiative to embed environmental justice into clean energy and climate programs, ensuring that communities that are on the front-lines benefit from this historic investment in confronting climate pollution. In addition, in September 2023, the Administration announced the launch of the American Climate Corps initiative to mobilize a new, diverse generation of clean energy, conservation, and resilience workers to tackle the climate crisis in communities around the Nation.

KEEPING AMERICANS SAFE AND PROTECTING DEMOCRACY AT HOME AND ABROAD

Since the President took office, he has protected democracy across the globe and restored U.S. leadership on the world stage. In the wake of Putin's brutal invasion and illegal war against Ukraine, he has rallied the world to support Ukraine's defense and stand up against dictatorship. The President continues to secure critical support for Ukraine in the face of continued Russian aggression while also enhancing the collective capabilities and readiness of the United States, our allies, and partners. The President has strengthened alliances across the globe,

including winning congressional support to add Finland and Sweden to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Alliance.

After Hamas's horrific terrorist attacks against Israel, the President has led the United States to support Israel's right to defend its country and protect its people in a way that upholds international humanitarian law, while ensuring the Palestinian people have access to vital humanitarian aid and lifesaving assistance. The President continues to press for congressional

support to provide the necessary security assistance to Israel and to extend humanitarian assistance to civilians impacted by conflict in the region, while working toward a future where Palestinians have a state of their own and Israel's security is assured.

Under the President's leadership, the Administration continues to focus on the Nation's strategic competition with the People's Republic of China—and promoting American competitiveness worldwide. The President has advocated for congressional support to invest in the American defense industrial base to ensure military readiness and strengthen integrated deterrence for the growing security requirements in the Indo-Pacific. The President has also increased U.S. foreign assistance to the region in support of a more free, open, secure, and connected Indo-Pacific, while also expanding America's diplomatic presence.

At the same time, the President remains laser-focused on keeping Americans safe at home. The President took on the gun lobby and signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act into law, the first significant gun violence legislation in nearly 30 years, which includes background checks for buyers under 21, expanded mental health programs, and support for implementation of red flag laws that keep guns away from dangerous people. The President created the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention in American history, overseen by the Vice President, and has announced nearly 40 executive actions to keep guns out of dangerous hands. The Administration has also delivered the most funding ever for the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 to combat gender-based violence and strengthened this landmark law, in addition to issuing the Nation's first-ever U.S. National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.

To continue to protect and secure the border, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has taken action to process noncitizens at record scale and efficiency. On May 12, 2023, DHS returned to processing all noncitizens under Title 8 immigration authorities. Each day since then, DHS has maximized the use of expedited removal, placing more than 900 individuals into the process each day on average, and conducting more than 100,000 credible fear interviews, both of which are record highs. As a result, DHS has removed or returned more than 565,000 noncitizens who did not have a lawful basis to remain in the United States, the vast majority of whom crossed the Southwest land border, since May 12, 2023. Total removals and returns since mid-May of 2023 exceed removals and returns in every full year since 2013. The majority of all individuals encountered at the Southwest land border over the past three years have been removed, returned, or expelled.

The President and Vice President continue to take action to combat hate which undermines democracy, including by releasing the first-ever national strategy to counter Antisemitism, announcing the development of a national strategy to counter Islamophobia and related forms of bias and discrimination, signing legislation to enhance State and local law enforcement's ability to respond to hate crimes, and signing legislation to make lynching a Federal crime. The President and Vice President have continued to speak out against discrimination, racism, sexism, anti-LGBTQI+ hate, and more—so that all Americans can live freely and without fear of attack or harassment. To strengthen the right to vote, a key pillar of our democracy, the President and Vice President have continued pushing for stronger voting rights to make sure every American can make their voice heard.