

stronger country, and we would lower health care costs for tens of millions of Americans.” That’s what we’re here for. That’s what I want you to fight for. That’s what I want Congress to vote for.

My fellow Americans, this decision rests no longer in my hands alone. The Congress has been under enormous pressure. There has been enormous disinformation out there. You’ve got people here holding up signs saying “No Socialized Medicine.” What does our plan require? Everybody to buy private insurance. Most of them have parents on Medicare. You want to repeal Medicare, ma’am? Do you think that’s socialized medicine? I don’t. Medicare, however, is paid for by all of us and by our employers. And they take care of the elderly people of this country; nobody wants to repeal it.

Our plan gives you your choice of doctors. You keep your doctor. You make your decision. It’s private insurance. It’s just what Hawaii has done. And there are people who say, “Don’t ration health care.” You talk to anybody who’s had their insurance cut back or their premiums up or their deductibles increased. You talk to any doctor who’s had to hire somebody just to call the insurance companies to get them to pay the bill. We are rationing health care today; 39 million Americans don’t have it. We are losing ground.

There are millions and millions of people who are holding on by their fingernails with worse and worse policies. What I want to do is stop rationing health care, avoid socialized medicine, give good, old-fashioned private American health

care to every American working family. That’s what we’re trying to do. And all the disinformation in the world won’t change it.

So I ask you this: Don’t let the fear-mongers, don’t let the dividers, don’t let the people who disseminate false information frighten the United States Congress into walking away from the opportunity of a lifetime. Tell the Members of Congress you will support them. This is not partisan politics.

I met with three families before I came up here with these problems. I don’t have any earthly idea whether they are Republicans or Democrats. I couldn’t tell you to save my life who they voted for for President. But I can tell you one thing: If they get up and go to work and obey the law and do their best to raise their children, they deserve health insurance. And with your help, we’re going to give it to them.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. at Liberty State Park. In his remarks, he referred to Gerald W. McEntee, international president, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); Vince Sombrotto, president, National Association of Letter Carriers; Dennis Rivera, president, 1199 National Health and Human Service Employees Union; Health Security Express rider Carolyn Vilas; and Louis and Maria Agnes, of New Jersey, who had written to the President concerning their problems obtaining health insurance.

Statement on Anticrime Legislation

August 1, 1994

Every major law enforcement organization in America supports this crime bill. Republican mayors have written members of their party in Congress to urge swift passage of the bill and Democratic mayors have done the same.

Today, the Nation’s prosecutors have come to Washington to add their voices to this mighty chorus with its simple message: Pass the crime bill now.

Police officers want it because it bans the deadly assault weapons that outgun them every

day. Mayors want it because it will put 100,000 more police officers on the streets. Prosecutors want it because it’s full of tough punishments that will allow them to seek the penalties violent criminals deserve.

The American people want action against the crime and violence that has become a familiar threat in almost every neighborhood.

It’s time for the lawmakers to do what the law enforcers have asked: Pass the crime bill now.