

Members of Congress who are up on stage, but also all the Members of Congress in the audience and all the health advocates that fought for so long for this to happen. We hope you feel good about the extraordinary service that you've rendered this country. Thank you very much. Let's go sign the bill.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:04 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Eamon McGoldrick, Christopher E. Wiggins, Sarah L. Wiggins, and Hoai-Nam Ngoc Bui, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids; and Delegate Donna M. Christensen of the U.S. Virgin Islands. H.R. 1256, approved June 22, was assigned Public Law No. 111-31.

Statement on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Commuter Train Crash in Washington, DC

June 22, 2009

Michelle and I were saddened by the terrible accident in northeast Washington, DC, today. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends affected by this tragedy. I want to thank the brave first responders who arrived immediately to save lives. My staff has been in

touch with Mayor Fenty's office and will continue to monitor the situation.

NOTE: The statement referred to Mayor Adrian M. Fenty of Washington, DC.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Western Balkans

June 22, 2009

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2009.

The crisis constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting (i) extremist violence in the Republic of Macedonia and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, that led to the

declaration of a national emergency on June 26, 2001, in Executive Order 13219, and to amendment of that order in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, has not been resolved. The acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity outlined in Executive Order 13219, as amended, are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans and maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
June 22, 2009.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.