

problems out there. But we could be doing a lot better than we're doing right now. We shouldn't be paying 50 percent more, 75 percent more than other countries that are just as healthy as we are. We shouldn't have prescription drugs 77 percent higher in costs than ours. And we shouldn't have people who are working really hard every day without health care or with \$8,000 deductibles, which means they basically don't have health insurance unless they get in an accident or they get really sick.

That just doesn't make sense. And the stories I get are heartbreaking, all across the country, from people who are just having a really tough time, and it's going to get tougher. So we've got to have the courage to be willing to change things. I know that sometimes people have lost confidence in the country's ability to bring about changes, but I think this is one of those times where we've really got to step up to the plate, and it will, ultimately, make Medicare

stronger, as well as the whole health care system stronger.

So thank you very much, everybody.

Mr. Cuthbert. One of the most difficult parts of working on an effort like health care reform is to keep in touch and keep up to date. May we suggest a web site: healthactionnow.org, that's healthactionnow—all one word—dot org. It will tell you how to get in touch with your Congressman and the people who are debating this whole issue and tell you how to keep involved until the very end, which we hope is soon.

Mr. President, Mr. CEO, Madam President, and everybody here and at home on the tele-town hall, we thank you all for participating. Keep up the good work, and we'll talk with you again. I'm Mike Cuthbert in Washington. Have a good day.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. at AARP Headquarters.

Statement on the 56th Anniversary of National Korean War Armistice Day July 28, 2009

The freedom, security, and prosperity that we enjoy as a nation exists only because of the heroic and selfless sacrifices of America's service men and women. Today we owe special remembrance to the veterans of the Korean war and especially the United States and Allied

combatants who made the ultimate sacrifice in Korea. For their courageous actions in pursuit of freedom and democracy for the Korean Peninsula, these dedicated men and women deserve our unending respect and gratitude.

Remarks at a Town Hall Meeting and a Question-and-Answer Session in Raleigh, North Carolina July 29, 2009

The President. Hello, North Carolina. Thank you so much. Thank you. All right, please, everybody, have a seat. Have a seat. I am so excited to be back in Raleigh, to be back in North Carolina. This is a community and a State that has been so good to me. And I know that part of the reason is because I travel with one of your homeboys, Reggie Love. But I hope it's more than that.

A couple of people I want to acknowledge very quickly. First of all, I just want to thank Sara Coleman for the wonderful introduction. Give her a great round of applause. She brought

me a cupcake factory T-shirt, but no cupcakes. *[Laughter]* I mean, I know I've been talking about health care a lot, but I think cupcakes are good for your health—*[laughter]*—so next time.

I also want to acknowledge the Broughton High School Jazz Ensemble. I want to thank Gardner Taylor for the invocation, Tom Gill for the Pledge of Allegiance, Chelsea Cole for the national anthem, Del Burns, our Wake County Public Schools superintendent. I want to thank Stephen Mares, the Broughton High School principal.