

Reginald L. Love; Sara Coleman, owner, Cupcake Shoppe Bakery, who introduced the President; Rev. Gardner C. Taylor, senior pastor emeritus, Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, NY; Tom E. Gill III, incoming junior

class president, and Chelsea M. Cole, student, Broughton High School; Joe Hockney, speaker, North Carolina State House of Representatives; and Supreme Court Associate Justice-designate Sonia M. Sotomayor.

## Statement on Congressional Action on Health Care Reform Legislation *July 29, 2009*

I want to thank the Members of both the Senate and House of Representatives for continuing their work on health reform to provide more stability and security for Americans who have insurance and quality, affordable coverage for those who don't. I'm especially grateful that

so many Members, including some Blue Dogs on the Energy and Commerce Committee, are working so hard to find common ground. Those efforts are extraordinarily constructive in strengthening this legislation and bringing down its cost.

## Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Food Safety Legislation *July 30, 2009*

Today the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2749, the "Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009," legislation that will raise food safety standards, allow the FDA to issue mandatory recalls of harmful products, and enhance our oversight of imported food.

This action represents a major step forward in modernizing our food safety system and protecting Americans from food-borne illness. Those are the goals of the Food Safety Working Group I convened in March and charged with making recommendations to improve our food

safety system. And that is why we announced a new rule to control Salmonella contamination in eggs and are working to reduce the presence of harmful pathogens such as E. coli in meat and produce, strengthen our capacity to trace the source of outbreaks, and update our emergency operations procedures.

I commend the House of Representatives for its action today and look forward to working with the Senate to enact critical food safety legislation.

## Statement on a Discussion With Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Sergeant James Crowley *July 30, 2009*

I am thankful to Professor Gates and Sergeant Crowley for joining me at the White House this evening for a friendly, thoughtful conversation. Even before we sat down for the beer, I learned that the two gentlemen spent some time together listening to one another,

which is a testament to them. I have always believed that what brings us together is stronger than what pulls us apart. I am confident that has happened here tonight, and I am hopeful that all of us are able to draw this positive lesson from this episode.