

That's why I've insisted that health insurance reform, as important as it is, not add a dime to the deficit, now or in the future.

There are those who would suggest that we must choose between markets unfettered by even the most modest of regulations and markets weighed down by onerous regulations that suppress the spirit of enterprise and innovation. If there is one lesson we can learn from last year, it is that this is a false choice. Commonsense rules of the road don't hinder the market, they make the market stronger. Indeed, they are essential to ensuring that our markets function fairly and freely.

One year ago, we saw in stark relief how markets can spin out of control, how a lack of commonsense rules can lead to excess and abuse, how close we can come to the brink.

One year later, it is incumbent upon us to put in place those reforms that will prevent this kind of crisis from ever happening again, reflecting painful but important lessons that we've learned, and that will help us move from a period of reckless irresponsibility, a period of crisis, to one of responsibility and prosperity. That's what we must do, and I'm confident that's what we will do.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:59 a.m. at Federal Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of the Treasury Timothy F. Geithner; New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver; and Lawrence H. Summers, Director, National Economic Council.

## Remarks During a Discussion With General Motors Employees in Lordstown, Ohio September 15, 2009

[*The President's remarks were joined in progress.*]

—the fact is, some of these schools, we've been doing the same things for years, and they're just not working. Okay? If you've got a 50-percent dropout rate, that's just—that is not just bad for the kids who are dropping out, that's bad for the community, that's bad for the country. The main decision for a lot of companies is where can they find skilled workers. And you guys know as well as anybody that it used to be if you wanted to work in an auto plant, you didn't have to really know much about math or computers or what have you. All you had to do was just be willing to work hard.

But these days, even if you're on the line—I haven't looked at this particular plant, but I know that you've got to be able to do some

math, you've got to—there's some science and technical issues that are involved. And so how we train our young people is absolutely critical, and we've got to try some different things and some new things that we haven't been trying.

And the other thing we have to do is set up a system of community colleges so that we're constantly retraining. If there is innovation in the auto industry, we want to make sure that workers who are already working are able to go back to school, even if it's part time, night classes, what have you, so that they can then improve their skills. And that's something that has got to be a top priority.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:04 a.m. at General Motors Lordstown Assembly Plant.

## Remarks at the General Motors Assembly Plant in Lordstown September 15, 2009

Thank you, guys. It is good to be back in Ohio. And it's good to be at one of GM's flagship plants with all of you.

I've got a list of some wonderful people that I want to make sure I acknowledge real quick. First of all, a former colleague of mine,