

politics that too often has fallen prey to the lobbyists and special interests, that's fostered division and sustained the status quo. Passing health insurance reform is a great test of this proposition. Yes, it will make a profound and positive difference in the lives of the American people. But it also now represents something more: whether or not we as a nation are capable of tackling our toughest challenges; if we can serve the national interest despite the unrelenting efforts of the special interests; if we can still do big things in America.

I believe we can; I believe we will. And I urge every Member of Congress to stand

against the power plays and political ploys and to stand up on behalf of the American people who sent us to Washington to do their business.

Thanks.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 4:20 p.m. on October 16 at Texas A&M University's Rudder Auditorium in College Station, TX, for broadcast on October 17. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 16, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on October 17.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotic Traffickers Centered in Colombia October 16, 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 emergency declared with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2009.

The circumstances that led to the declaration on October 21, 1995, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, for-

eign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause an extreme level of violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain economic pressure on significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia by blocking their property and interests in property that are in the United States or within the possession or control of United States persons and by depriving them of access to the U.S. market and financial system.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
October 16, 2009.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 19. The notice of October 16 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks at Viers Mill Elementary School in Silver Spring, Maryland October 19, 2009

The President. Here's the reason that I wanted to stop by for lunch today, and that is, I have heard great things about this school. I

hear everybody here is reading all the time. Right? The motto here is?

Principal Matthew A. Devan. Viers Mill, what's our goal?