

especially privileged to see you at a time of renewal and change in America and during a period of transition, where the world order is changing. And I look forward to hear your views on how you see the world evolving in a manner and America's role in it, which is crucial to the stability and prosperity of East Asia.

*President Obama.* Thank you very much.

All right, everybody.

#### *The President's Visit to Dover Air Force Base*

*Q.* Sir, can we ask about your visit to Dover Air Force Base last night? Will it influence your decision on Afghanistan?

*President Obama.* Well, obviously, it was a sobering reminder of the extraordinary sacrifices that our young men and women in uniform are engaging in every single day, not only our troops but their families as well. And so Michelle and I are constantly mindful of those sacrifices.

And obviously, the burden that both our troops and our families bear in any wartime situation is going to bear on how I see these conflicts. And it is something that I think about each and every day.

All right?

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:47 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

## Statement on House of Representatives Action on Health Care Reform Legislation

*October 29, 2009*

I congratulate the House of Representatives on the introduction of the "Affordable Health Care for America Act," another critical milestone in the effort to reform our health care system.

This legislation is the product of unprecedented cooperation and countless hours of hard work by Speaker Pelosi, Chairmen Waxman, Rangel, and Miller, Congressman Dingell, and scores of House Members who share my conviction that we can't wait another year for health insurance reform. They have forged a strong consensus that represents a historic step forward.

The House legislation includes critical reforms to the insurance industry so that Americans will no longer have to worry that they will be denied coverage or that their coverage will be dropped or watered down when they need it most. I'm also pleased that the bill includes a

public option offered in an exchange. As I've said throughout this process, a public option that competes with private insurers is the best way to ensure choice and competition that are so badly needed in today's market. And the House bill clearly meets two of the fundamental criteria I have set out: It is fully paid for and will reduce the deficit in the long term.

While we know there will—may—more steps and much spirited debate before a bill reaches my desk, I congratulate the House on their work so far, and I'm confident that Members will continue to work together to deliver meaningful reform for America's families and businesses.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

## Statement on Czech Republic's National Day

*October 28, 2009*

On behalf of the American people, I extend my warmest wishes to those celebrating the Czech Republic's National Day. Whether they are Americans that trace their roots back to the

Czech Republic, or those living there now, the United States and the Czech Republic are close allies and essential partners. Our nations share a history of struggle on behalf of liberty and