

Remarks During a Meeting With Premier Wen Jiabao of China in Beijing *November 18, 2009*

Well, Mr. Premier, I want to thank you very much for your hospitality and this meeting. And I want to send my regards not only from my delegation but also from the American people.

Now, I can tell you that those members of my Government who have had dealings with you before have always come away impressed with your knowledge and your wisdom.

We have had very productive discussions over the last 2 days. I think President Hu and myself agreed in our first meeting that we wanted to try to deepen the strategic partnership

and relationship between the United States and China. A relationship that used to be focused just on economic and trade issues is now expanding to deal with a whole host of global issues in which U.S.-China cooperation is critical.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:49 a.m. at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. In his remarks, he referred to President Hu Jintao of China. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Senate Action on Health Care Reform Legislation *November 18, 2009*

Today we passed another critical milestone in the health reform effort with the release of the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act." I was particularly pleased to see that the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the bill will reduce the deficit by \$127 billion over the next 10 years and as much as \$650 billion in the decade following, saving hundreds of billions while extending coverage to 31 million more Americans.

From day one, our goal has been to enact legislation that offers stability and security to those who have insurance and affordable coverage to those who don't, and that lowers costs for families, businesses, and governments across the country. Majority Leader Reid, Chairmen Baucus and Dodd, and countless Senators have worked tirelessly to craft legislation that meets those principles.

Just yesterday a bipartisan group of more than 20 leading health economists released a

letter urging passage of meaningful reform and praising four key provisions that are in the Senate legislation: a fee on insurance companies offering high-premium plans; the establishment of an independent Medicare commission; reforms to the health care delivery system; and overall deficit neutrality. The economists said that these provisions "will reduce long-term deficits, improve the quality of care, and put the Nation on a firm fiscal footing." Those are precisely the goals we should be seeking to attain.

The challenges facing our health care system aren't new, but if we fail to act, they'll surely get even worse, meaning higher premiums, skyrocketing costs, and deeper instability for those with coverage. Today, thanks to the Senate's hard work, we're closer than ever to enacting solutions to these problems. I look forward to working with the Senate and House to get a finished bill to my desk as soon as possible.

Interview With Xiang Xi of the Southern Weekly in Beijing *November 18, 2009*

The President's Visit to China

Mr. Xiang. Your first trip to China is ending. So can you use just one sentence to tell us your favorite about the trip?

The President. It has been a very productive trip. We have worked on a range of issues of mutual concern to the United States and China, and I think it signifies the continued growth of