

truth. Opposing reform will leave taxpayers on the hook if a crisis like this ever happens again.

So my hope is that we can put this kind of politics aside. My hope is that Democrats and Republicans can find common ground and move forward together. But this is certain: One way or another, we will move forward. This issue is too important. The costs of inaction are too great. We will hold Wall Street accountable. We will protect and empower consumers in our financial system. That's what reform is all about. That's what we're fighting for. And that's exactly what we're going to achieve.

Thanks so much.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 4:55 p.m. on April 16 in the Blue Room at the White House for broadcast on April 17. In the address, the President referred to Warren E. Buffett, chief executive officer and chairman, Berkshire Hathaway Inc. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 16, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on April 17. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

### **Statement on the Funeral Service for President Lech Kaczynski of Poland** *April 17, 2010*

I spoke with Acting President Komorowski and told him that I regret that I will not be able to make it to Poland due to the volcanic ash that is disrupting air travel over Europe. Michelle and I continue to have the Polish people in our thoughts and prayers and will support them in

any way I can as they recover from this terrible tragedy. President Kaczynski was a patriot and close friend and ally of the United States, as were those who died alongside him, and the American people will never forget the lives they led.

### **Statement on the 62d Anniversary of the State of Israel** *April 19, 2010*

On the 62d anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, I join the American people in congratulating the Government and people of Israel on this celebration of their independence. Minutes after David Ben-Gurion declared Israel's independence, realizing the dream of a state for the Jewish people in their historic homeland, the United States became the first country to recognize Israel. To this day, we continue to share a strong, unbreakable bond of friendship between our two nations, anchored by the United States enduring commitment to Israel's security. Israel remains our important partner and key strategic ally in the Middle East, and I am confident that our spe-

cial relationship will only be strengthened in the months and years to come. I look forward to continuing our efforts with Israel to achieve comprehensive peace and security in the region, including a two-state solution, and to working together to counter the forces that threaten Israel, the United States, and the world.

On this day, we once again honor the extraordinary achievements of the people of Israel and their deep and abiding friendship with the American people. I offer my best wishes to President Peres, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and the people of Israel as they celebrate this happy occasion.