

working our way out of this hole. We're going to have a lot of money on the other side. They think that the American people have forgotten how badly they mismanaged this economy. And the only way we are going to win is if all of you are engaged and informed and are out there engaging and informing other people.

But in the end, I'm confident you can do that. Remember when I started this fascinating journey, not a lot of people knew who I was. In fact, nobody could pronounce my name. But there were people all across America who had this basic sense that we had put off for too long some things that were holding this country back and who believed that there's nothing we can't accomplish when a group of citizens decide it's time to go out and about and bring about change.

That sense of fundamental optimism, that sense that this country still has its best days ahead of it, that belief that if we make sure that our young people get the educational opportunities they deserve, if we are spurring innovation, if we are making sure that we have a free market that works because it's got rules of the road that work for everybody and not just those who are well connected in Washington, that be-

lieve that America works best when it's inclusive and everybody has a shot at the American Dream, that's what propelled me into office. That's what moved so many of you to get involved. That's what we're going to have to rekindle over the next several months.

I'm confident we can do it. And when we do—if you guys are working hard, if you're making those phone calls and sending out those e-mails and doing what needs to be done—I feel very optimistic not just about the next election, but more importantly, I feel optimistic about the next generation.

Thank you very much everybody. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:34 p.m. at the residence of Russell W. and Dorothy A. "Dori" Budd. In his remarks, he referred to Matrice Ellis-Kirk, wife of U.S. Trade Representative Ronald Kirk; Supreme Court Associate Justice Elena Kagan; House Republican Leader John A. Boehner; and Rep. Joseph L. Barton. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 10. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Legislation Creating the Education Jobs Fund August 10, 2010

Good morning, everybody. One of the biggest challenges of this recession has been its impact on State and local communities. With so many Americans unemployed or struggling to get by, States have been forced to balance their budgets with fewer tax dollars, which means that they've got to cut critical services and lay off teachers and police officers and firefighters.

Now, it's one thing for States to get their fiscal houses in order and tighten their belts like families across America. Because families have been doing it, there's no reason that States can't do it too. That's a welcome thing. But we can't stand by and do nothing while pink slips are given to the men and women who educate our children or keep our communities safe. That doesn't make sense. And that's why a significant part of the economic plan that we passed last

year provided relief for struggling States, relief that has already prevented hundreds of thousands of layoffs.

And that's why today we're trying to pass a law that will save hundreds of thousands of additional jobs in the coming year. It will help States avoid laying off police officers, firefighters, nurses, and first-responders. And it will save the jobs of teachers like the ones who are standing with me today. If we do nothing, these educators won't be returning to the classroom this fall. And that won't just deprive them of a paycheck, it will deprive the children and parents who are counting on them to provide a decent education. It means that students in Illinois and West Virginia who count on Rachel and Shannon are going to be not getting the education that they deserve. It will deprive count-

less cities and towns of the law enforcement officials and first-responders who risk their lives to keep us out of harm's way. It will cost us jobs at a time when we need to be creating jobs. In other words, it will take us backwards at a time when we need to keep this country moving forward.

Now, this proposal is fully paid for, in part by closing tax loopholes that encourage corporations to ship American jobs overseas. So it will not add to our deficit. And the money will only go toward saving the jobs of teachers and other essential professionals.

It should not be a partisan issue. I heard the Republican leader in the House say the other day that this is a special interest bill. And I suppose if America's children and the safety of our communities are your special interests, then it is a special interest bill. But I think those interests are widely shared throughout this country. A challenge that affects parents, children, and citizens in almost every community in America should not be a Democratic problem or a Republican problem. It is an American problem.

I'm grateful that two Republicans joined Democrats to pass this proposal in the Senate last week. And I'm equally grateful that Speaker Pelosi has called back the House of Representatives to a special session so that they can vote as well.

I urge members of both parties to come together and get this done so that I can sign this bill into law. I urge Congress to pass this proposal so that the outstanding teachers who are here today can go back to educating our children. America's watching, and America's waiting for Washington to act. So let's show the Nation that we can.

I want to thank Rachel as well as Shannon not only for being here today but for the extraordinary work that they're doing each and every day with special education children, with kindergarteners so that they're getting off to a right start. And I also want to thank Arne Duncan, who has been doing as much as anybody all across the country to try to emphasize how important it is to make sure that we are providing a first-class education to every single one of our children.

This bill helps us do that. And so it's time for Democrats and Republicans to come together and get it done.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:43 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rachel Martin, kindergarten teacher, Park Forest, IL; Shannon Lewis, special education teacher, Romney, WV; House Republican Leader John A. Boehner; and Sens. Olympia J. Snowe and Susan M. Collins. He also referred to H.R. 1586.

Statement on the Death of Former Senator Theodore F. Stevens *August 10, 2010*

A decorated World War II veteran, Senator Ted Stevens devoted his career to serving the people of Alaska and fighting for our men and women in uniform. Michelle and I extend our

condolences to the entire Stevens family and to the families of those who perished alongside Senator Stevens in this terrible accident.

Remarks on Signing the United States Manufacturing Enhancement Act of 2010 *August 11, 2010*

Thank you very much. Everybody, please have a seat. Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to the White House.

From the day I took office, my administration's highest priority has been to rescue our economy from crisis, rebuild it on a new