

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