

Statement on Senate Passage of Small-Business Jobs Legislation September 23, 2010

The small-business jobs bill passed today will help provide loans and cut taxes for millions of small-business owners without adding a dime to our Nation's deficit. After months of partisan obstruction and needless delay, I'm grateful that Democrats and a few Republicans came to-

gether to support this commonsense plan to put Americans back to work. I look forward to signing the bill on Monday.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 5297.

Statement on Senate Action on Election Spending Disclosure Legislation September 23, 2010

I am deeply disappointed by the unanimous Republican blockade in the Senate of the "DISCLOSE Act," a critical piece of legislation that would control the flood of special interest money into our elections. Today's decision by a partisan minority to block this legislation is a victory for special interests and U.S. corporations—including foreign-controlled ones—who are now allowed to spend unlimited money to fill our airwaves, mailboxes, and phone lines right up until election day, and it comes at the expense of the American people, who no longer

have the right to know who is financing these ads in an attempt to influence an election for their preferred candidate. Wall Street, the insurance lobby, oil companies, and other special interests are now one step closer to taking Congress back and returning to the days when lobbyists wrote the laws. But despite today's setback, I will continue fighting to ensure that our democracy stays where it belongs, in the hands of the American people.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 3628.

Interview With Bahman Kalbasi of BBC Persian in New York City September 24, 2010

Mr. Kalbasi. Mr. President, thank you very much for your time.

The President. Thank you for having me.

U.N. General Assembly Address by President Mahmud Ahmadi-nejad of Iran

Mr. Kalbasi. If I could just begin with getting your reaction to the remarks Mr. Ahmadi-nejad made yesterday, faulting America for 9/11.

The President. Well, it was offensive. It was hateful. And particularly for him to make the statement here in Manhattan, just a little north of Ground Zero, where families lost their loved ones—people of all faiths, all ethnicities, who see this as the seminal tragedy of this generation—for him to make a statement like that was inexcusable.

And it stands in contrast with the response of the Iranian people when 9/11 happened, when there were candlelight vigils and, I think, a natural sense of shared humanity and sympathy was expressed within Iran. And it just shows once again sort of the difference between how the Iranian leadership and this regime operates and how, I think, the vast majority of the Iranian people, who are respectful and thoughtful, think about these issues.

Iran-U.S. Relations/U.N. Security Council Sanctions

Mr. Kalbasi. When your first video message to be sent in March of 2009, on the occasion of the Persian New Year, you spoke to the Government of Iran and people of Iran, and you talked about how you are committed to diplomacy. And you also said that this process of talking