

said it was going to be hard. Change has always been hard.

From the first days of our Nation, every time Americans have tried to bring about real, meaningful change, we faced setbacks and disappointments. From the founding of this country—George Washington experienced setbacks and disappointments. We’ve had to face fear and doubt. Harriet Tubman had fear and doubt. But as Americans, we have always moved forward. We have always kept fighting. We’ve always remembered that in the United States of America, our destiny is not written for us, it is written by us. That’s how we got through war. That’s how we got through depression. That’s what civil rights workers understood. That’s how we got women’s rights and workers’ rights. And that’s what’s being tested right now.

And if we’ve got the courage to keep moving forward, even in the face of difficulty, even in

the face of uncertainty, I guarantee, if all of you are out there knocking on doors and making phone calls and voting for Martin O’Malley and Barbara Mikulski and the rest of the Democratic ticket, then we are not just going to win this election, but we are going to make sure that the American Dream is alive and well for future generations.

Thank you, everybody. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:25 p.m. at Bowie State University. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. Timothy M. Kaine of Virginia, in his capacity as chairman of the Democratic National Committee; musicians Beyonce G. Knowles and Paul D. “Bono” Hewson; Rep. Pete Sessions, in his capacity as chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee; and former lobbyist Brian Wild.

Statement on Archbishop Desmond Tutu’s Retirement From Public Life *October 7, 2010*

It is with deep appreciation that I note Archbishop Desmond Tutu’s retirement from public life today on the occasion of his 79th birthday. This event invites us to celebrate his many accomplishments, from which we have all benefited. For decades he has been a moral titan: a voice of principle, an unrelenting champion of justice, and a dedicated peacemaker. He played a pivotal role in his country’s struggle against apartheid and extraordinary example of pursuing

a path to forgiveness and reconciliation in the new South Africa. He has also been an outspoken voice for freedom and justice in countries across the globe; a staunch defender of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons; and an advocate for treatment and prevention programs to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. We will miss his insight and his activism, but will continue to learn from his example. We wish the Archbishop and his family happiness in the years ahead.

Statement on Signing the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 *October 7, 2010*

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2701, the “Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.” This is the first intelligence authorization act enacted in nearly 6 years, and it includes a number of provisions that will assist in the effective and efficient execution of Intelligence Community (IC) programs. One such provision would facilitate information sharing by IC elements with the National Counterterrorism Center and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI).

In a September 27, 2010, letter to Congress, the ODNI summarized my Administration’s understanding of how sections 331 and 348 of the bill would be interpreted. In particular, section 331 addresses the fundamental compact between the Congress and the President regarding the reporting of sensitive intelligence matters as embodied in title V of the National Security Act. Section 331’s requirement to provide a “general description” of a covert action finding or notification provides sufficient flexibility to

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craft an appropriate description for the limited notification, based on the extraordinary circumstances affecting vital interests of the United States and recognizing the President's authority to protect sensitive national security information. Also, as previously indicated, my Administration understands section 331's requirement to provide to the intelligence committees "the legal basis" under which certain intelligence activities and covert actions are being or were conducted as not requiring disclosure of any privileged advice or information or disclosure of information in any particular form.

In a March 15, 2010, letter to Congress, the Department of Justice summarized my Administration's understanding of a number of provisions. In particular, section 405 establishes an Inspector General of the Intelligence Community in the ODNI. In accordance with longstanding executive branch policy, my Administration understands section 405's requirement that the Inspector General make an immediate

report to congressional committees regarding investigations focused upon certain current or former IC officials as not requiring the disclosure of privileged or otherwise confidential law enforcement information. Moreover, the whistleblower protection provisions in section 405 are properly viewed as consistent with President Clinton's stated understanding of a provision with substantially similar language in the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999. See *Statement on Signing the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999*: Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, William J. Clinton, 1998 (p. 1825).

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
October 7, 2010.

NOTE: H.R. 2701, approved October 7, was assigned Public Law No. 111-259.

Remarks at a Reception for Senatorial Candidate Alexi Giannoulias in Chicago, Illinois October 7, 2010

The President. Hello, Chicago! Oh, it's good to be home! It is good to be home. Got all my friends—all my friends—in the house.

Audience member. Long time no see.

The President: Long time no see.

It is wonderful to see—I see so many familiar faces here. Just a couple of people I've got to make mention of. First of all, he may be in my remarks, but I just want to say that there is nobody who was a better partner to me when I was in the United States Senate, nobody who is a better friend to working families here in Illinois, and nobody who is a better debater on the floor of the United States Senate than the man to my left, Dick Durbin. So love Dick Durbin. Love Dick Durbin. I love Loretta Durbin more. [Laughter] But Dick Durbin I love.

We also—if I'm not mistaken, we've got the junior Senator from Illinois, Roland Burris, in the house. Where's Roland? There he is right

there. Appreciate Roland for his outstanding service.

We've got the next Lieutenant Governor of the great State of Illinois, Sheila Simon, who, by the way, knows a little bit about good Senators. Congressman Danny Davis is in the house. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky is here—love Jan. Attorney General Lisa Madigan is here. Comptroller Dan Hynes is here. Senate President John Cullerton is here. The next treasurer, Robin Kelly, is in the house. The next comptroller, David Miller, is in the house.

Now, I see everybody else here. [Laughter] But if I started naming everybody I know, I'm in trouble. So I've just got to stop—[laughter]—except to say that it's also nice to be standing here with the next Senator from the great State of Illinois, Alexi Giannoulias.

Alexi is my friend. I know his character. I know how much he loves this country. I know how committed he is to public service. He has