

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