

living with an “intellectual disability.” Now this may seem to some people like a minor change, but I think Rosa’s brother Nick put it best. Where’s Nick? You right there, Nick? You can wave too. Go ahead. [*Laughter*]

But I want everybody to hear Nick’s wisdom here. He said, “What you call people is how you treat them. If we change the words, maybe it will be the start of a new attitude towards people with disabilities.” That’s a lot of wisdom from Nick.

Nick and Rosa’s parents are all choking up because they’re really proud of their kids, and appropriately so.

Now, the bill I’m signing today into law will better ensure full participation in our democracy and our economy for Americans with disabilities. The Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act will make it easier for people who are deaf, blind, or live with a visual impairment to do what many of us take for granted, from navigating a TV or DVD menu to sending an e-mail on a smart phone. It sets new standards so that Americans with disabilities can take advantage of the technology our economy depends on. And that’s especially important in today’s economy, when every worker needs the necessary skills to compete for the jobs of the future.

So together, these changes are about guaranteeing equal access, equal opportunity, and equal respect for every American. And they build on the progress that we’ve already made as an administration over the last 20 months.

Together, we put in place one of the most important updates to the ADA in 20 years by prohibiting disability-based discrimination by government entities and private businesses and by updating accessibility standards.

I issued an Executive order focused on establishing the Federal Government as a model employer of Americans with disabilities.

We passed the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act, the first piece of comprehensive legislation aimed at addressing the challenge faced by Americans living with paralysis.

We reauthorized the Children’s Health Insurance Program, covering an additional 2.6 million children in need in 2009, including children with disabilities.

And the Affordable Care Act we passed will give every American more control over their health care and will do more to give Americans with disabilities control over their own lives than any legislation since the ADA.

So equal access, equal opportunity, the freedom to make of our lives what we will, living up to these principles is an obligation we have as Americans, and to one another. Because, in the end, each of us has a role to play in our economy, each of us has something to contribute to the American story, and each of us must do our part to continue on this never-ending journey towards building a more perfect Union.

So I am so proud of the legislators here today. I want to thank all the advocates who helped bring this legislation about. And now I’m very proud to sign the bill.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:06 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Nina and Paul Marcellino, parents, and Madeline and Gigi Marcellino, sisters, of Rosa Marcellino. He also referred to Rosa’s Law, S. 2781, which was approved on October 7 and assigned Public Law No. 111–256. S. 3304, approved October 8, was assigned Public Law No. 111–260.

Statement on the Awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo *October 8, 2010*

I welcome the Nobel Committee’s decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Mr. Liu Xiaobo. Last year, I noted that so many others

who have received the award had sacrificed so much more than I. That list now includes Mr. Liu, who has sacrificed his freedom for his be-

liefs. By granting the prize to Mr. Liu, the Nobel Committee has chosen someone who has been an eloquent and courageous spokesman for the advance of universal values through peaceful and nonviolent means, including his support for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

As I said last year in Oslo, even as we respect the unique culture and traditions of different countries, America will always be a voice for

those aspirations that are universal to all human beings. Over the last 30 years, China has made dramatic progress in economic reform and improving the lives of its people, lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty. But this award reminds us that political reform has not kept pace and that the basic human rights of every man, woman, and child must be respected. We call on the Chinese Government to release Mr. Liu as soon as possible.

Memorandum of Disapproval on the “Interstate Recognition of Notarizations Act of 2010”

October 8, 2010

It is necessary to have further deliberations about the possible unintended impact of H.R. 3808, the “Interstate Recognition of Notarizations Act of 2010,” on consumer protections, including those for mortgages, before the bill can be finalized. Accordingly, I am withholding my approval of this bill. (The Pocket Veto Case, 279 U.S. 655 (1929)).

The authors of this bill no doubt had the best intentions in mind when trying to remove impediments to interstate commerce. My Administration will work with them and other leaders

in Congress to explore the best ways to achieve this goal going forward.

To leave no doubt that the bill is being vetoed, in addition to withholding my signature, I am returning H.R. 3808 to the Clerk of the House of Representatives, along with this Memorandum of Disapproval.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
October 8, 2010.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Certifying Exports to the People’s Republic of China

October 8, 2010

Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 902(b)(2) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101–246) (the “Act”), and as President of the United States, I hereby report to the Congress that it is in the national interest of the United States to terminate the suspensions under section 902(a)(3) of the Act with respect to the issuance of temporary munitions export licenses for exports to the People’s Republic of China insofar as such restrictions pertain to the

C–130 cargo aircraft to be used in oil spill response operations at sea. License requirements remain in place for these exports and require review and approval on a case-by-case basis by the United States Government.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate.