

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:25 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to White House science fair partici-

pant Amy Chyao of Plano, TX, and her chemistry teacher Vashka Desai.

## Statement on Senate Action on Paycheck Fairness Legislation November 17, 2010

I am deeply disappointed that a minority of Senators have prevented the “Paycheck Fairness Act” from finally being brought up for a debate and receiving a vote. This bill passed in the House almost 2 years ago; today it had 58 votes to move forward, the support of the majority of Senate, and the support of the majority of Americans. As we emerge from one of the worst recessions in history, this bill would ensure that American women and their families

aren’t bringing home smaller paychecks because of discrimination. It also helps businesses that pay equal wages as they struggle to compete against discriminatory competition. But a partisan minority of Senators blocked this commonsense law. Despite today’s vote, my administration will continue to fight for a woman’s right to equal pay for equal work.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 3772.

## Statement on General Motors Company November 17, 2010

General Motors’ initial public offering (IPO) marks a major milestone in the turnaround of not just an iconic company, but the entire American auto industry. Through the IPO, the Government will cut its stake in GM by nearly half, continuing our disciplined commitment to exit

this investment while protecting the American taxpayer. Supporting the American auto industry required tough decisions and shared sacrifices, but it helped save jobs, rescue an industry at the heart of America’s manufacturing sector, and make it more competitive for the future.

## Remarks Prior to a Meeting on the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and an Exchange With Reporters November 18, 2010

*The President.* I want to begin by thanking the incredible leaders who are around this table, not only the Vice President and the Secretary of State, but also some of the most able statesmen from both parties that we’ve had in modern American history, who are sitting around this table.

We are here to discuss the importance of ratifying the START Treaty. And let me be clear: It is in the national security imperative—it is a national security imperative that the United States ratify the new START Treaty this year.

There is no higher national security priority for the lame duck session of Congress. The stakes for American national security are clear,

and they are high. The new START Treaty responsibly reduces the number of nuclear weapons and launchers that the United States and Russia deploy, while fully maintaining America’s nuclear deterrent.

If we ratify this treaty, we’re going to have a verification regime in place to track Russia’s strategic nuclear weapons, including U.S. inspectors on the ground. If we don’t, then we don’t have a verification regime: no inspectors, no insights into Russia’s strategic arsenal, no framework for cooperation between the world’s two nuclear superpowers. As Ronald Reagan said, we have to trust, but we also have to verify.