

The President's Weekly Address *February 12, 2011*

A few months ago, I received a letter from a woman named Brenda Breece. I want to share her story because it speaks to what a lot of families are going through, and it offers a good example of the kind of responsibility that's needed in Washington right now.

Brenda's a mom and a special-ed teacher from Missouri. Her husband David was employed at the local Chrysler plant for nearly four decades. They've worked hard their whole lives. But like a lot of folks, they've taken some hits over the past few years. When the Chrysler plant closed, David had to take early retirement. His pension helps, but it's half of what he earned before. Meanwhile, because of budget cuts, Brenda has had to buy school supplies for her students out of her own pocket, because it's her job and she cares about those kids.

Money has been tight, but they are doing the best they can. And like so many families, they are sacrificing what they don't need so they can afford what really matters. This is what Brenda told me. "I feel my family is frugal," she said. "We go to the movies once a month, but usually, we just wait for them to come out on TV. I watch the food budget. We combine trips into town, and use coupons, and we trim each other's hair when we need a haircut."

So Brenda and her husband know what they can do without. But they also know what investments are too important to sacrifice. Their daughter Rachel is a sophomore in college with a 4.0 grade point average. The tuition's a big expense. But it's worth it, because it will give her the chance to achieve her dreams. In fact, Brenda is looking for a second job to ensure, as she put it, "the money is there to help Rachel with her future."

Families across this country understand what it takes to manage a budget. They understand what it takes to make ends meet without forgoing important investments like education. Well, it's time Washington acted as responsibly

as our families do. And on Monday, I'm proposing a new budget that will help us live within our means while investing in our future.

My budget freezes annual domestic spending for the next 5 years—even on programs I care deeply about—which will reduce the deficit by more than \$400 billion over the next decade. This freeze will bring this type of spending to its lowest level as a share of the economy since Dwight Eisenhower was President. We've stripped down the budget by getting rid of waste. For example, we're getting rid of thousands of Government-owned buildings that sit empty because they aren't needed. I've also proposed freezing salaries for hard-working Government employees, because everyone has to do their part. And I'm going to make sure politics doesn't add to our deficit by vetoing any bill that contains earmarks.

And yet just as the Breece family is making difficult sacrifices while still investing in the future—by helping, for instance, their daughter pay her tuition—my budget does the same. I'm proposing that we invest in what will do the most to grow the economy in the years to come. This means job-creating investments in roads, high-speed rail, and broadband. This means cutting-edge research that holds the promise of creating countless jobs and whole new industries, like clean energy and biotechnology. And it means improving our schools and making college more affordable to give every young person the chance to fulfill his or her potential and receive the job training they need to succeed, because it would be a mistake to balance the budget by sacrificing our children's education.

So after a decade of rising deficits, this budget asks Washington to live within its means, while at the same time investing in our future. It cuts what we can't afford to pay for what we cannot do without. That's what families do in hard times. And that's what our country has to do as well.

Thanks so much.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 4 p.m. in the Blue Room at the White House for broadcast on February 12. The tran-

script was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 11, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on February 12.

Statement on the Sixth Anniversary of the Death of Former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon *February 13, 2011*

On this sixth anniversary of the murder of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 other innocent victims, the United States reaffirms our strong support for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and its mission to find the truth behind that outrageous act of terrorism. Ending the era of impunity for political assassinations is essential to realizing the justice and stability that the Lebanese people deserve, and any attempt to interfere with the Tribunal's work or fuel tensions within Lebanon must not be tolerated.

The cause for which Prime Minister Hariri and so many Lebanese patriots gave their lives

must remain our guide. To this end, the United States will never waver in our support for the sovereignty, integrity, and independence of Lebanon, and we remain committed to the full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 1559, 1680, and 1701. At this critical moment, we call on all friends of Lebanon to stand with the people of Lebanon, who must be free to determine their own destiny. And those Lebanese who forge their future in a spirit of peace and reconciliation will continue to have a strong partner in the United States.

Remarks at Parkville Middle School and Center of Technology in Baltimore, Maryland *February 14, 2011*

Well, good morning, everybody. I am here at Parkville Middle School and Center of Technology outside of Baltimore with Secretary Arne Duncan and Budget Director Jack Lew. And I just came to Parkville on a day where we are unveiling our budget, and I'm doing so for a reason. But before I do that, I just want to thank Principal Buddy Parker, who is showing us around, as well as Susan Yoder, the eighth grade science teacher who we just visited with in her classroom.

Over the last few weeks, I've traveled the country talking about what we need to do to win the future. I've talked about the need to invest in innovation so that the next big idea is discovered here in the United States of America. I've talked about the need to invest in high-speed rail and high-speed Internet so that companies can move goods and information faster than ever. And this week, I'll be talking about the need to invest in education—in plac-

es like Parkville—so that every American is equipped to compete with any worker, anywhere in the world.

Now, these investments are an essential part of the budget my administration is sending to Congress, because I'm convinced that if we outbuild and outinnovate and outeducate as well as outhustle the rest of the world, the jobs and industries of our time will take root here in the United States. Our people will prosper, and our country will succeed.

But I'm also convinced that the only way we can make these investments in our future is if our Government starts living within its means, if we start taking responsibility for our deficits. And that's why when I was sworn in as President, I pledged to cut the deficit in half by the end of my first term. The budget I'm proposing today meets that pledge and puts us on a path to pay for what we spend by the middle of the decade. We do this in part by eliminating