

require hard work. And it's going to require you, because, frankly, I can't do this stuff by myself. We can't transform schools unless we've got great teachers and unless we've got great parents and community members who are interacting with and who are willing to get engaged and get involved.

I can't deliver for the great State of Florida unless I've got Bill Nelson standing by my side and I've got Debbie Wasserman Schultz on TV making my case. *[Laughter]*

I can't get reelected and make sure that we're carrying on the mandate that you gave us 2½ years ago unless I've got everybody here all in. And when I say "all in," I mean all in. I don't—you know how we operate. We don't just want your money. We want your time, we want your energy, we want your ideas. We want you passionate about this being important.

When I won the Presidency a couple of years ago, it wasn't because I was the best connected candidate. It wasn't because I had the easiest name to pronounce. *[Laughter]* The reason was because we tapped into something that wasn't just about, sort of, traditional politics; it wasn't just about, sort of, special interests and who's going to be for who because that person checked a box on this particular issue or that particular issue. It was something more substantial, I'd like to think. It had to do with a recognition that the world was changing and that we weren't going to respond to that with fear. We were going to respond to it with hope.

And that if we met this new world with confidence, if we reminded ourselves of what is best about America, which is that through all these changes, we constantly adapt better than anybody else. We may be arguing about it, we may debate about it, we may go through moments of ugliness, but eventually, we keep on thinking—moving forward. We stay young as a

country. And that's what we captured during the campaign.

We've now gone through 2 tough years. And some of us are beaten down and worn out. And the last midterm obviously was very tough. And I'm grayer and looking a little older than I did. People don't say, "Oh, look at that young President" anymore. *[Laughter]* Yes, he looks like the President. He looks—*[laughter]*. But you know, in each of us I think that spirit still exists and that sense of hope still exists.

And we have good reason to be hopeful, because we've done extraordinary things over these last 2 years, because of your help. Because of your help, we yanked this economy out of what could have been a Great Depression. Because of your help, we passed a historic health care bill. Because of your help, we ended "don't ask, don't tell." Because of your help, we are making enormous progress on the education front. Because of your help, we made the largest investment in clean energy in our history. Because of your help, we have transformed our foreign policy so that America is once again respected around the world.

That's because of you. I need you to do it again. That's what tonight is all about. And I promise you this is not the last time you're going to see me here in Florida, all right? *[Laughter]* I love you guys.

God bless you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:17 p.m. at the residence of Michael M. and Judith S. Adler. In his remarks, he referred to David, Matthew, and Rachel Adler, children of Mr. and Mrs. Adler; Bernyce "Bunny" Adler, mother of Mr. Adler; Grace C. Nelson, wife of Sen. Nelson, and their children Nan Ellen Dixon and C. William Nelson, Jr.; former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala; and President Felipe de Jesus Calderon Hinojosa of Mexico.

## The President's Weekly Address

### March 5, 2011

I'm talking with you from Miami, Florida, where I'm visiting Miami Central High School,

a school that's turning itself around on behalf of its kids. I came here with Jeb Bush, former

Governor of this State, because he and I share the view that education isn't a partisan issue, it's an American issue.

But in a larger sense, this is a moment when we've all got to do what the students and the teachers are doing here: We've got to step up our game.

Our top priority right now has to be creating new jobs and opportunities in a fiercely competitive world. And this week, we received very good news on that front. We learned that the unemployment rate has fallen to its lowest level in nearly 2 years as our economy added another 222,000 private sector jobs last month.

Now, we have a lot more work to do, not just for the Americans who still don't have jobs, but for the millions more who still don't have the right job or all the work they need to live out the American Dream. But the progress we're seeing says something about the determination and ingenuity of our people and our businesses. What's also helping to fuel this economic growth are the tax cuts that Democrats and Republicans came together to pass in December and that I signed into law, tax cuts that are already making Americans' paychecks bigger and allowing businesses to write off their investments, freeing up more money for job creation.

Just as both parties cooperated on tax relief that is now fueling job growth, we need to come together around a budget that cuts spending without slowing our economic momentum. We need a government that lives within its means without sacrificing job-creating investments in education, innovation, and infrastructure.

The budget I sent to Congress makes these investments, but it also includes a 5-year spending freeze, and it will reduce our deficits by \$1 trillion over the next decade. In fact, the cuts I've proposed would bring annual domestic spending to its lowest share of the economy under any President in more than 50 years.

Over the last few weeks, Members of Congress have been debating their own proposals. And I was pleased that Democrats and Republicans in Congress came together a few days

ago and passed a plan to cut spending and keep the Government running for 2 more weeks. But we can't do business 2 weeks at a time. It's not responsible, and it threatens the progress our economy has been making. We've got to keep that momentum going.

We need to come together, Democrats and Republicans, around a long-term budget that sacrifices wasteful spending without sacrificing the job-creating investments in our future. My administration has already put forward specific cuts that meet congressional Republicans halfway. And I'm prepared to do more. But we'll only finish the job together, by sitting at the same table, working out our differences, and finding common ground. That's why I've asked Vice President Biden and members of my administration to meet with the leaders of Congress going forward.

Getting our fiscal house in order can't just be something we use as cover to do away with things we dislike politically. And it can't just be about how much we cut. It's got to be about how we cut and how we invest. We've got to be smart about it. Because if we cut back on the kids I've met here and their education, we'd be risking the future of an entire generation of Americans. And there's nothing responsible about that.

We've got to come together to put America back on a fiscally sustainable course and make sure that when it comes to the economy of our 21st century, our children and our country are better prepared than anyone else in the world to take it on. Our future depends on it. That's not a Democratic or a Republican challenge, it's an American challenge. And I'm confident it's one we'll meet.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 3:20 p.m. on March 4 at Miami Central High School in Miami, FL, for broadcast on March 5. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 4, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on March 5.