

these young people succeed. There's nothing responsible about that. There's nothing responsible about cutting back on our investment in these young people.

I mean, think about what happens in your own family. If you have a family member that loses a job or you have an illness in the family and you've got to cut back, where do you start? You maybe give up a vacation. You go out to eat less often. Maybe you don't buy that new coat you thought was sharp or the new car that you thought you needed. But the last thing you do is give up saving on your child's education, because you know that's the key to that child's success in life.

Well, what's true for a family has to be true for the larger American family. A budget that sacrifices our commitment to education is a budget that sacrifices our country's future. It is a budget that sacrifices our children's future, and I will not let it happen. I will not let it happen. We're not going to give up on any school in America or any child in America.

We can't forget that every year, schools like TechBoston have to hold a lottery because there just aren't enough spaces for all the students who want to go here. The reason they want to go here is because they know that if they go to some of the other schools in the area, they won't do as well. They know that they might drop out. They might not get the same reinforcement that they need. There might not

be that same culture of excellence and performance. That means they may not go to college, and they know they may not succeed.

All of that shouldn't depend on a lottery. That can't be the system of education we settle for in America. No child's chance in life should be determined by the luck of a lottery. Not in this country. This is a place where everyone gets the chance to succeed, where everybody should have a chance to make it. The motto of this school is, "We rise and fall together." Well, that is true for America as well. That's true for America as well.

If we want to prosper in the 21st century and if we want to keep the American Dream alive in our time, then we're going to rise together. We've all got to come together. We've got to give our children the same world-class education that you are getting right here at TechBoston. And as long as I am President, that's what I'm going to be fighting for right alongside you.

Thank you so much, everybody. God bless you. God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:44 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Melinda French Gates and William H. Gates III, coauthors, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; musician Justin D. Bieber; and Mary E. Skipper, principal, and James Louis, teacher, TechBoston Academy.

Statement on the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day *March 8, 2011*

On this 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, we celebrate the extraordinary gains made by women over the past century and the women pioneers who made them possible, and we reaffirm our unwavering support for the rights, security, dignity, and opportunity of all women around the world. Today reminds us that across countries and cultures, people everywhere, women and men, share rights and aspirations that are universal, among them the freedom to chart their own destiny, to raise their children free from violence, and

to live in societies that value their voice and respect their will.

History shows that when women and girls have access to opportunity, societies are more just, economies are more likely to prosper, and governments are more likely to serve the needs of all their people. That is why my administration has stood up for gender equality and women's empowerment around the world and demanded an end to sexual and gender-based violence. It's why we're developing a plan to promote women's meaningful participation in conflict prevention and resolution in war-torn

societies. And it's why we are working to advance these goals and our national interests by strengthening the role of women in every aspect of our foreign policy. In the United States

and around the world, we will not rest until our mothers, sisters, and daughters assume their rightful place as full and equal members of a secure, prosperous, and just world.

Statement on Senate Passage of Patent Reform Legislation March 8, 2011

Creating new jobs and new opportunities in a fiercely competitive world demands policies that encourage and support American innovation and ingenuity. So I'm pleased that, on a bipartisan basis, the Senate has passed the most significant patent reform in over half a century. This long-overdue reform is vital to our ongoing efforts to modernize America's patent laws and reduce the backlog of 700,000 patent applications, which won't just increase transpar-

ency and certainty for inventors, entrepreneurs, and businesses, but help grow our economy and create good jobs. I want to thank Senators Leahy, Grassley, and Hatch for their leadership on this issue, and I look forward to working with the House of Representatives to pass patent reform legislation I can sign into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 23.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran March 8, 2011

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2011.

The crisis between the United States and Iran resulting from the actions and policies of the Government of Iran has not been resolved.

The actions and policies of the Government of Iran are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
March 8, 2011.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.