

everybody's responsible, but everybody also looks out for one another, that's the idea at the heart of our last campaign. That's the idea at the heart of this campaign. That's the idea at the heart of America.

This is not my campaign, this is your campaign. And I've got to tell you, there's going to come a time when I'll fully engage in this race. When the time comes, I will be campaigning. [Laughter] I'll be ready to go. But I've got to tell you, right now I still have this day job—[laughter].

Audience member. You're doing the big stuff.

The President. And that's why I'm going to need your help now more than ever. This campaign is still in its early stages, but now's the time when you can help shape it to make sure it gets out of the gate strong.

We've—let me tell you, I'm grayer, and I'm a little dinged up. [Laughter] I know there are times where some of you have felt frustrated because we've had to compromise with the Republicans on some issues. There have been times—people are frustrated because we didn't get everything done in the first 2 years. There have been times where I felt the same way you do. But you know what, we knew this would not be easy.

We knew that on a journey like this, there are going to be setbacks, there are going to be detours, there are going to be times where you stumble. But we also knew something else. We knew that at each and every juncture in our history, when our future was on the line, when we were on—at a crossroads like we are now,

the country came together. We were able to make the changes that we needed.

That's what earlier generations did in Lexington and Concord and Selma and Stonewall. That's what did—so many of you did out in cornfields in Iowa, polling places in Wrigleyville. And that's what I need each and every one of you to remember and do one more time, not for me, but for us, for the future we hold in common, for the better days that lie ahead.

So whenever you hear people say our problems are too big to solve or we can't bring about the changes we seek, I want you to think about all the progress we've already made. I think—I want you to think about all the unfinished business that lies ahead. I want you to be excited about the future that lies before us. And I want to remind you, and I want you to remind everybody else, of those simple words that summed up what we believe as a people: Yes, we can.

Thank you. Go Bulls!

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:16 p.m. at the Navy Pier. In his remarks, he referred to Ernest Banks, former shortstop and first baseman, Major League Baseball's Chicago Cubs; Benjamin R. "B.J." Armstrong, Jr., former guard, and Derrick M. Rose, guard, National Basketball Association's Chicago Bulls; Joakim Noah, center, Chicago Bulls, and his mother Cecilia Rodhe; Rashard Mendenhall, running back, National Football League's Pittsburgh Steelers; musicians Colbie Caillat and Usher Raymond IV; and Supreme Court Associate Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia M. Sotomayor.

Statement on Signing the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011

April 15, 2011

Today I have signed into law H.R. 1473, the "Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011".

Section 1112 of the Act bars the use of funds for the remainder of fiscal year 2011 to transfer Guantanamo detainees into the United States, and section 1113 bars the use of funds for the

remainder of fiscal year 2011 to transfer detainees to the custody or effective control of foreign countries unless specified conditions are met. Section 1112 represents the continuation of a dangerous and unprecedented challenge to critical executive branch authority to determine when and where to prosecute Guantanamo de-

tainees, based on the facts and the circumstances of each case and our national security interests. The prosecution of terrorists in Federal court is a powerful tool in our efforts to protect the Nation and must be among the options available to us. Any attempt to deprive the executive branch of that tool undermines our Nation's counterterrorism efforts and has the potential to harm our national security.

With respect to section 1113 of the Act, the restrictions on the transfer of detainees to the custody or effective control of foreign countries interfere with the authority of the executive branch to make important and consequential foreign policy and national security determinations regarding whether and under what circumstances such transfers should occur in the context of an ongoing armed conflict. We must have the ability to act swiftly and to have broad flexibility in conducting our negotiations with foreign countries. The executive branch has sought and obtained from countries that are prospective recipients of Guantanamo detainees assurances that they will take or have taken measures reasonably designed to be effective in preventing, or ensuring against, returned detainees taking action to threaten the United States or engage in terrorist activities. Consistent with existing statutes, the executive branch has kept the Congress informed about these assurances and notified the Congress prior to transfers. Requiring the executive branch to certify to additional conditions would hinder the conduct of delicate negotiations with foreign countries and therefore the effort to conclude detainee transfers in accord with our national security.

Despite my continued strong objection to these provisions, I have signed this Act because

of the importance of avoiding a lapse in appropriations for the Federal Government, including our military activities, for the remainder of fiscal year 2011.

Nevertheless, my Administration will work with the Congress to seek repeal of these restrictions, will seek to mitigate their effects, and will oppose any attempt to extend or expand them in the future.

Section 2262 of the Act would prohibit the use of funds for several positions that involve providing advice directly to the President. The President has well-established authority to supervise and oversee the executive branch, and to obtain advice in furtherance of this supervisory authority. The President also has the prerogative to obtain advice that will assist him in carrying out his constitutional responsibilities, and do so not only from executive branch officials and employees outside the White House, but also from advisers within it.

Legislative efforts that significantly impede the President's ability to exercise his supervisory and coordinating authorities or to obtain the views of the appropriate senior advisers violate the separation of powers by undermining the President's ability to exercise his constitutional responsibilities and take care that the laws be faithfully executed. Therefore, the executive branch will construe section 2262 not to abrogate these Presidential prerogatives.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
April 15, 2011.

NOTE: H.R. 1473, approved April 15, was assigned Public Law No. 112–10.

Message on the Observance of Passover *April 15, 2011*

My family and I send our warmest wishes to all those celebrating the sacred festival of Passover.

On Monday evening, Jewish families and their friends in America, Israel, and around the world will gather around the Seder table and re-

tell the story of the Exodus, one of the most powerful stories of suffering and redemption in history. The story of Passover—which recalls the passage of the children of Israel from bondage and repression to freedom and liberty—inspires hope that those oppressed and enslaved