

to understand that what I've tried to do over the last 3½ years is to keep my promises. So I promised I'd end the war in Iraq; I ended it. I promised that we would keep taxes low for middle class families; I did that.

But the most important promise I made—some of you remember me saying this in 2008—I said, you know I'm not a perfect man. I said, I wasn't going to be a perfect President; no President is. But what I promised you was that I would always tell you what I thought, I'd always tell you what I believed, and I would wake up every single day fighting as hard as I knew how for you. And you know what, I have kept that promise.

Because when I look around this room, if I see an elderly couple I think about my grandparents and everything they did for me. And when I see this young lady asking about her dad, I think about my daughters. I see myself in you. And my most important job is fighting

for you and that basic American idea that if you work hard in this country, you can succeed, you can get ahead.

And I'm going to do everything I can, as long as I have the honor of being President, to fight for you and working families and middle class families all across this country. So I hope you'll stand with me. I hope you'll work with me. Let's finish what we started and remind the world why the United States is the great nation that it is.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. at Music Hall. In his remarks, he referred to musician Al Green; Republican Presidential candidate former Gov. W. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts; and Sen. A. Mitchell McConnell. He also referred to his mother-in-law Marian Robinson and brother-in-law Craig M. Robinson.

Statement on Senate Action on Campaign Finance Legislation

July 16, 2012

Two years ago, the Supreme Court ruled in *Citizens United* that big corporations are allowed to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence American elections. They can buy millions of dollars' worth of TV ads with no obligation to reveal who's actually paying for them.

The consequences of this decision are predictable. If we allow this practice to continue, special interests will have unprecedented influence over politicians. It's wrong, it's corrosive to our democracy, and it's a threat to our future.

Today Republicans in the Senate had the chance to change it. They had the opportunity to support a bill that would prevent the worst effects of the *Citizens United* decision and re-

quire groups or special interests who are trying to influence elections to reveal their donors so the public will know who's funding their political ads. This bill should have received broad, bipartisan support.

Unfortunately, Republicans chose to block it. Instead of standing up for the American people, Republicans stood with big banks and oil companies, special interests that certainly don't need more clout in Washington.

I will continue to do everything I can to repair the deficit of trust between Washington and the American people. I'm disappointed Republicans in Congress failed to take action and hold corporations and special interests accountable to the American people.