

So, New Hampshire, I'm going to need your help. We've come too far to turn back now. We've still got more good jobs to create, more good teachers to hire, more students to help to go to college, more troops to bring home, more homegrown energy to generate, more doors of opportunity to open for everybody who is willing to walk through them and work hard and put in the effort.

And if you're willing to stand with me one more time—if you're willing to knock on some doors and make some phone calls, talk to your friends and talk to your neighbors—we will finish what we started. We will win New Hamp-

shire. We will win this election. And we'll remind the world why the United States of America is the greatest nation on Earth.

God bless you. God bless the United States of America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:55 p.m. at Rochester Commons. In his remarks, he referred to Amy L. Bradley, executive director, Manchester City Democrats; and Republican Presidential candidate former Gov. W. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts. He also referred to his mother-in-law Marian Robinson.

Statement on the Observance of Eid al-Fitr August 18, 2012

Michelle and I extend our warmest wishes to Muslim communities in the United States and around the world as they celebrate Eid al-Fitr. For Muslims, Ramadan has been a time of fasting, prayer, and spiritual renewal. These past 4 weeks have also been a time to serve the less fortunate, a reminder of the obligations that people of all faiths have to each other.

In the United States, Eid al-Fitr speaks to the truth that communities of faith—including

Muslim Americans—enrich our national life, strengthen our democracy, and uphold our freedoms, including the freedom of religion. That is why we stand with people of all faiths, in the United States and around the world, in protecting and advancing this universal human right.

On behalf of the American people, we congratulate Muslim Americans and Muslims around the world on this joyous day. *Eid Mubarak*.

Remarks at the Kids' State Dinner August 20, 2012

The President. It looks spectacular! Hello, everybody.

Audience members. Hello!

The President. Have a seat. Everybody have a seat. Now, I heard that there was a state dinner going on here, and usually I get invited to the state dinners. [Laughter] So this time, I just had to crash because—

The First Lady. Crash. [Laughter]

The President. I had to crash the party because I did not want to miss out on all the fun.

I'm not going to speak long because—

The First Lady. Please.

The President. —I know that there's some entertainment coming that is more entertain-

ing than me. [Laughter] But I do want to say I couldn't be prouder of my wife Michelle, because she has—[applause]—she took up this cause of healthy eating because she's a mom, and like the other moms in the room—

The First Lady. And dads and grandparents.

The President. And dads and grandparents in the room, sometimes, we have to get on the younger people about eating healthy. And that personal experience then translated into all the great work she's been doing. And she's helped to mobilize a movement around the country to give parents more choices and more information so that they can work with their kids to make sure their kids are healthy.

But, in addition to being proud of her, I could not be prouder of you, the young people, because it's hard enough to follow a recipe and make something good to eat. I'm not a great cook. I'm an okay cook. I can make a good omelet and—[laughter]—toast. [Laughter]

The First Lady. Chili.

The President. I make a very good chili, it's true. But look, let's face it, I don't cook that often these days. But I remember cooking, and it's not always easy to make something that people like to eat. Then for you guys to actually come up with recipes that are healthy and tasty, and to do it in a way that helps to contribute to spreading the word about healthy eating among your peers, that's a really big deal.

So we're very proud of you. We're very impressed with everything that you've done. I hope you guys are having a good time while you're here. Everybody, by the way, looks very sharp—

The First Lady. Yes.

The President. —looks very good.

I only have one request for you, and that is try not to drop any scraps on the floor because Bo—[laughter]—Bo is on a diet right now and he will eat anything that he sees, especially some of the tasty meals that you guys have prepared.

So thank you very much, everybody. Good luck. All right?

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:12 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Following a Press Briefing by White House Press Secretary James F. "Jay" Carney August 20, 2012

The President. Hello, everybody.

Press Secretary Carney. Looks like there's a surprise guest here.

The President. Jay tells me that you guys have been missing me. [Laughter] So I thought I'd come by and just say hello.

Before I take some questions, let me just mention, since Medicare has been a little bit in the news lately, I thought it would be useful to start with some actual facts and news about the program.

Today HHS announced that thanks to the health care law that we passed, nearly 5.4 million seniors with Medicare have saved over \$4.1 billion on prescription drugs. That's an average savings of more than \$700 per person. This year alone, 18 million seniors with Medicare have taken advantage of new preventive care benefits like a mammogram or other cancer screening at no extra cost.

These are big deals for a lot of Americans, and it represents two important ways that the improvements we made as part of the Affordable Care Act have strengthened Medicare and helped seniors everywhere get better care at less cost. That's been our goal from the very

beginning, and I'm going to continue to do everything I can to make sure that we keep our seniors healthy and the American people healthy.

So with that, let me start off with Jim Kuhnhehn [Associated Press].

Rape/Women's Health Issues/Missouri Republican Senatorial Candidate Todd W. Akin

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for being here. You're no doubt aware of the comments that the Missouri Senate candidate, Republican Todd Akin, made on rape and abortion. I wondered if you think those views represent the views of the Republican Party in general. They've been denounced by your own rival and other Republicans. Are they an outlier or are they representative?

The President. Well, let me, first of all, say the views expressed were offensive. Rape is rape. And the idea that we should be parsing and qualifying and slicing what types of rape we're talking about doesn't make sense to the American people and certainly doesn't make sense to me.