

And what I strongly believe is that if the business community speaks out for such a sensible, balanced, responsible approach, then eventually it will get done. I think it was Winston Churchill who once said that Americans always do the right thing after they've exhausted every other possibility. And we're getting to the point where we've now exhausted every other possibility. And I have confidence that what's been true for our country in the past will be true for this country in the future.

So with that, let me just open it up and take some questions. I think we're going to move the press out of the way. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:39 p.m. at the Park Hyatt Washington hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Andrew N. Liveris, chairman and chief executive officer, Dow Chemical Co., in his capacity as chairman of the Business Council.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Legislation To Prevent Violence Against Women *February 28, 2013*

I was pleased to see the House of Representatives come together and vote to reauthorize and strengthen the Violence Against Women Act. Over more than two decades, this law has saved countless lives and transformed the way we treat victims of abuse. Today's vote will go even further by continuing to reduce domestic violence, improving how we treat victims of rape, and extending protections to Native American women and members of the LGBT community. The bill also reauthorizes the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, providing critical

support for both international and domestic victims of trafficking and helping ensure traffickers are brought to justice. I want to thank leaders from both parties, especially Leader Pelosi, Congresswoman Gwen Moore, and Senator Leahy, for everything they've done to make this happen. Renewing this bill is an important step towards making sure no one in America is forced to live in fear, and I look forward to signing it into law as soon as it hits my desk.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 47.

Statement on Senate Action on Federal Budget Legislation *February 28, 2013*

Today Republicans in the Senate faced a choice about how to grow our economy and reduce our deficit. And instead of closing a single tax loophole that benefits the well off and well connected, they chose to cut vital services for children, seniors, our men and women in uniform, and their families. They voted to let the entire burden of deficit reduction fall squarely on the middle class.

I believe we should do better. We should work together to reduce our deficit in a balanced way: by making smart spending cuts and closing special interest tax loopholes. That's exactly the kind of plan Democrats in the Senate have proposed. But even though a majority of Senators support this approach, Republicans

have refused to allow it an up-or-down vote, threatening our economy with a series of arbitrary, automatic budget cuts that will cost us jobs and slow our recovery.

Tomorrow I will bring together leaders from both parties to discuss a path forward. As a nation, we can't keep lurching from one manufactured crisis to another. Middle class families can't keep paying the price for dysfunction in Washington. We can build on the over \$2.5 trillion in deficit reduction we've already achieved, but doing so will require Republicans to compromise. That's how our democracy works, and that's what the American people deserve.