

others, changing hearts and minds. And when we do that, then change occurs. It doesn't come always as quickly as we like, but progress comes.

We've got to keep pushing. We've got to make access to health care more available and affordable for folks living with HIV. We've got to implement the protections in the Affordable Care Act. We've got to keep making our classrooms and our neighborhoods safe for all of our young people.

And I agree with Susan, a PFLAG mom from Ohio: We've got to end LGBT discrimination in the places where we work. Susan wrote me and said, "If I have a concern, it is that there are so many LGBT men and women who contribute to the wealth and growth of our Nation . . . but they're still not protected from harassment in the workplace."

And I share that concern. In 34 States, you can be fired just because of who you are or who you love. That's wrong. We've got to change it. There's a bipartisan bill moving forward in the Senate that would ban discrimination against all LGBT Americans in the workplace, now and forever. We need to get that passed. I want to sign that bill. We need to get it done now.

And I think we can make that happen, because after the last 4½ years, you can't tell me, things can't happen. Look around. We've got gay and lesbian soldiers and sailors and airmen and marines who are here today. We've got married couples from places like New York and Washington State. You've got a couple of guys here on stage who I don't think anybody in their high schools thought would be the

President and the Vice President of the United States. [Laughter]

Vice President Biden. They thought about you. [Laughter]

The President. So don't tell me that things can't happen when we put our minds to them. [Laughter]

The genius of America is that America can change. And people who love this country can change it. And that's what we're called to do. And I hope that when we gather here next year and the year after that, we'll be able to say, with pride and confidence, that together we've made our fellow citizens a little more free. We've made this country a little more equal. We've made our world a little more full of love.

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you. God bless America. Enjoy the party.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:21 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Arcata, CA, residents Zea and Luna Weiss-Wynne and their mothers Lara Weiss and Nora Wynne; Maj. Gen. Patricia A. Rose, USAF, mobilization assistant to the commander, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH; Elaine Kaplan, Director, and M. John Berry, former Director, Office of Personnel Management; Nitza I. Quinones Alejandro, judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; Wahpeton, ND, residents Valerie Nelson and Diane Gira and their son Madison; and Susan Mason, president, Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Urbana Area in Urbana, OH.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Actions and Policies of Certain Members of the Government of Belarus and Other Persons To Undermine the Democratic Processes or Institutions of Belarus

June 13, 2013

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the auto-

matic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days 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 to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2013.

In 2012, the Government of Belarus continued its crackdown against political opposition, civil society, and independent media. The September 23 elections failed to meet international standards. The government arbitrarily arrested, detained, and imprisoned citizens for criticizing officials or for participating in demonstrations; imprisoned at least one human rights activist on manufactured charges; and prevented independent media from disseminating information and materials. These actions show that the Government of Belarus has not taken steps forward in the development of

democratic governance and respect for human rights.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions, to commit human rights abuses related to political repression, and to engage in public corruption continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
June 13, 2013.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks Honoring the 2012 Women's National Basketball Association Champion Indiana Fever *June 14, 2013*

The President. Hello, everybody. Welcome to the White House. Everybody, please have a seat. Congratulations to the 2012 WNBA champions, the Indiana Fever. [Applause] Hey! I told them, if you're from Indiana, you'd better have a good basketball team. [Laughter] They brought Indiana's other championship team with them, the Division III women's basketball champions, the 34-and-0 DePauw Tigers, who are in the audience. Where are you, Tigers? Tigers, right back here. How about that? Well, that's pretty cool. Well, we're going to have to get a picture after we do all this, with the Tigers. I don't know, by the way, if this is a recruiting violation, you guys bringing them here. [Laughter] This is—she's keeping her eye out for new talent.

This is not Coach Dunn's first trip to the White House. She came here when she was a Girl Scout; I won't say which administration that was. [Laughter]

Head Coach Lin Dunn. Thank you.

The President. I also want to recognize the WNBA President, Laurel Richie, and Fever team owner Herb Simons. Where are they? I didn't know where you went. Now, Herb is also the owner of the Indiana Pacers. I will not comment on that. [Laughter] Although, we do both have something in common, which is, our teams got knocked out by the Heat. [Laughter] But we will get even next year.

And while our towns have a friendly rivalry going on, I still recognize those Midwestern values when I see them. We saw it in the Indiana Fever, which is, you look out for your