

Hospital. We are honored and truly, truly humbled to be here.

Because we actually hope that this team serves as an inspiration to the Nation of what a group can do when you come together and sacrifice your egos for a greater goal, to come together with a real hardhat work ethic, and to be able to persevere through adversity and a whole heck of a lot of criticism—[laughter]—and still be able to accomplish the ultimate dream.

*The President.* Fantastic. Thank you so much.

*Forward LeBron James.* Am I supposed to say something?

*The President.* Hey, you can if you want. It's your world, man. [Laughter]

*Mr. James.* I mean, on behalf of myself and my teammates, we just want to thank you—to piggyback what Spo' said—for the hospitality, for allowing us to be, I mean, in the White House. I mean, we're in the White House. [Laughter] I mean—and Coach said—and the Prez said this real casual. So I mean, we're kids from Chicago and Dallas, Texas and Michigan

and Ohio and South Dakota—[laughter]—Miami. I mean—and we're in the White House right now. This is like, "Hey, mama, I made it." [Laughter]

*Guard Dwyane Wade.* All I've got to say is, we've got a 10-day contract left?

*The President.* Yes.

*Mr. Wade.* Pick my man up. [Laughter]

*The President.* You guys could use a shooter. [Laughter]

*Mr. Wade.* My point guard. [Laughter]

*The President.* Thank you. Thank you. All right.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:44 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Kevin Durant, forward, and Russell Westbrook, point guard, NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder; Shane Battier, Chris Bosh, Mike Miller, and Juwan Howard, forwards, and Mario Chalmers, point guard, Miami Heat; and Hakeem Abdul Olajuwon, former center, Houston Rockets. Mr. Spoelstra referred to Micky Arison, general manager, and Pat Riley, president, the HEAT Group.

## Statement on Congressional Passage of Funding for Hurricane Sandy Recovery Efforts January 28, 2013

I am pleased that Congress took bipartisan action to provide funding for the communities in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, and other Eastern States devastated by Hurricane Sandy. For the families working to put their lives back together, every day without relief is one day too many. So while I had hoped Congress would provide this aid sooner, I applaud the lawmakers from both parties who helped shepherd this important package through.

My administration remains committed to supporting our State and local partners and bringing every resource to bear as we help our neighbors rebuild. And we will continue to

work closely with Governors and mayors to ensure this money is used appropriately. To date, we have already provided over 3 billion in aid to help recovery efforts, including hundreds of millions of dollars that have gone directly to families and businesses impacted by the storm. Brick by brick, block by block, our communities are being made whole again. And we will not rest until the job is done. Again, I commend Congress for giving families and businesses the help they deserve, and I will sign this bill into law as soon as it hits my desk.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 152.