

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Penny S. Pritzker as Secretary of Commerce

June 25, 2013

I am pleased the Senate took bipartisan action to confirm Penny Pritzker as our next Commerce Secretary. Penny is a proven leader, a successful entrepreneur, and one of the most accomplished and highly respected women in business today. She knows what it takes to build companies from the ground up,

and she shares my belief in doing everything we can to help businesses and workers succeed and make America a magnet for good jobs. Penny will be a key member of my economic team as we continue to work to grow our economy and strengthen the middle class.

Statement on the Election of Edward J. Markey to the United States Senate

June 25, 2013

Tonight I spoke to Ed Markey to congratulate him on his election to the United States Senate.

During more than 36 years as a Congressman, Ed has distinguished himself as a leader on many of the key challenges of our time, from fighting carbon pollution to protecting our children from gun violence, to creating good middle class jobs. He's earned a reputation as an effective, creative legislator, willing to partner with colleagues across the aisle to make progress on the issues that matter most. The people of Massachusetts can be proud that they have another strong leader fighting for them in the Senate, and people across the country will benefit from Ed's talent and integrity.

I also want to thank Mo Cowan for his hard work and dedication over the last 5 months. And I want to thank John Kerry for his nearly three decades of extraordinary service to the people of Massachusetts in the Senate and for agreeing to continue to serve the American people as Secretary of State. I'm confident Ed will help carry on that legacy, and I look forward to working with him to strengthen our economy, protect the middle class, and expand opportunity.

NOTE: The statement referred to Sen. William M. "Mo" Cowan, who was appointed by Gov. Deval L. Patrick of Massachusetts to assume office on an interim basis following the resignation of former Sen. John F. Kerry.

Statement on the United States Supreme Court Ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act

June 26, 2013

I applaud the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act. This was discrimination enshrined in law. It treated loving, committed gay and lesbian couples as a separate and lesser class of people. The Supreme Court has righted that wrong, and our country is better off for it. We are a people who declared that we are all created equal, and the love we commit to one another must be equal as well.

This ruling is a victory for couples who have long fought for equal treatment under the law; for children whose parents' marriages will now be recognized, rightly, as legitimate; for families that, at long last, will get the respect and protection they deserve; and for friends and supporters who have wanted nothing more than to see their loved ones treated fairly and have worked hard to persuade their Nation to change for the better.