

## Statement on the Death of Representative C. William Young *October 18, 2013*

Michelle and I were saddened to learn of the passing of Congressman C.W. “Bill” Young. For over 50 years Bill served the people of Florida, both in the State legislature and as the longest serving Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives. He

will be remembered for his advocacy and support for the Armed Forces, servicemembers, and their families as well as his statesmanship and long history of working across the aisle to keep our country moving forward.

## The President’s Weekly Address *October 19, 2013*

Hi, everybody. This week, because Democrats and responsible Republicans came together, the Government was reopened, and the threat of default was removed from our economy.

There’s been a lot of discussion lately of the politics of this shutdown. But the truth is, there were no winners in this. At a time when our economy needs more growth and more jobs, the manufactured crisis of these last few weeks actually harmed jobs and growth. And it’s understandable that your frustration with what goes on in Washington has never been higher.

The way business is done in Washington has to change. Now that these clouds of crisis and uncertainty have lifted, we need to focus on what the majority of Americans sent us here to do: grow the economy, create good jobs, strengthen the middle class, lay the foundation for broad-based prosperity, and get our fiscal house in order for the long haul.

It won’t be easy. But we can make progress. Specifically, there are three places where I believe that Democrats and Republicans can work together right away.

First, we should sit down and pursue a balanced approach to a responsible budget, one that grows our economy faster and shrinks our long-term deficits further. There’s no choice between growth and fiscal responsibility; we need both. So we’re making a serious mistake if a budget doesn’t focus on what you’re focused on: creating more good jobs that pay better wages. If we’re going to free up resources for the things that help us grow—education, infrastructure, research—we should cut what

we don’t need and close corporate tax loopholes that don’t help create jobs. This shouldn’t be as difficult as it’s been in past years. Remember, our deficits are shrinking, not growing.

Second, we should finish the job of fixing our broken immigration system. There’s already a broad coalition across America that’s behind this effort, from business leaders to faith leaders, to law enforcement. It would grow our economy. It would secure our borders. The Senate has already passed a bill with strong bipartisan support. Now the House should too. The majority of Americans thinks this is the right thing to do. It can and should get done by the end of this year.

Third, we should pass a farm bill, one that America’s farmers and ranchers can depend on, one that protects vulnerable children and adults in times of need, and one that gives rural communities opportunities to grow and the longer term certainty they deserve.

We won’t suddenly agree on everything now that the cloud of crisis has passed. But we shouldn’t hold back on places where we do agree just because we don’t think it’s good politics or just because the extremes in our parties don’t like compromise. I’ll look for willing partners from either party to get important work done. There’s no good reason why we can’t govern responsibly, without lurching from manufactured crisis to manufactured crisis. Because that isn’t governing, it’s just hurting the people we were sent here to serve.

Those of us who have the privilege to serve this country have an obligation to do our job the best we can. We come from different parties, but we're Americans first. And our obligations to you must compel all of us, Democrats and Republicans, to cooperate and compromise and act in the best interests of this country that we love.

Thanks, everybody, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 4:45 p.m. on October 18 in the Blue Room at the White House for broadcast on October 19. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 18, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on October 19.

## Remarks on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act October 21, 2013

*The President.* Everybody, have a seat.

[At this point, Shelbyville, DE, resident Janice Baker, a beneficiary of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, made brief remarks, concluding as follows.]

*Ms. Baker.* Thank you all. And I am now honored to introduce the President of the United States.

*The President.* Great job.

*Ms. Baker.* Thank you. Thank you.

*The President.* Thank you. Thank you, everybody. Well, thank you, Janice. And thanks to everybody here for coming on this beautiful day. Welcome to the White House.

About 3 weeks ago, as the Federal Government shut down, the Affordable Care Act's health insurance marketplaces opened for business across the country. Well, we've now gotten the Government back open for the American people, and today I want to talk about how we're going to get the marketplaces running at full steam as well. And I'm joined today by folks who have either benefited from the Affordable Care Act already or who are helping their fellow citizens learn about what this law means for them and how they can get covered.

Of course, you've probably heard that [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov)—the new website where people can apply for health insurance and browse and buy affordable plans in most States—hasn't worked as smoothly as it was supposed to work. And the number of people who have visited the site has been overwhelming, which

has aggravated some of these underlying problems.

Despite all that, thousands of people are signing up and saving money as we speak. Many Americans with a preexisting condition, like Janice, are discovering that they can finally get health insurance like everybody else.

So today I want to speak to every American who's looking to get affordable health insurance. I want you to know what's available to you and why it may be a good deal for you. And for those who've had some problems with the website, I want to tell you what we're doing to make it work better and how you can sign up to get covered in other ways.

But before I do that, let me remind everybody that the Affordable Care Act is not just a website. It's much more. For the vast majority of Americans—for 85 percent of Americans who already have health insurance through your employer or Medicare or Medicaid—you don't need to sign up for coverage through a website at all. You've already got coverage. What the Affordable Care Act does for you is to provide you with new benefits and protections that have been in place for some time. You may not know it, but you're already benefiting from these provisions in the law.

For example, because of the Affordable Care Act, young people like Jasmine Jennings and Jessica Ugalde and Ezra Salop—all of whom are here today—they've been able to stay on their parents' plans until they're 26. Millions of other young people are currently benefiting from that part of the law. Another part of the Affordable Care Act is providing seniors with deeper discounts on their