

dent means they lose everything. So the rhetoric of reform is becoming the reality of reform. And we're not going back.

So just remember this: I have run my last political campaign, but I'll tell you what, we've—I've got one more campaign in me: the campaign to make sure that this law works for every single person in America. And I'm asking for your help. I need your help to implement this law. I need your help to educate folks about this law. I—you need to keep knocking on doors and making phone calls and traveling all across your States.

## Remarks at an Organizing for Action Dinner November 4, 2013

Thank you, everybody! Thank you. Everybody, have a seat, have a seat.

Jim claims that he always gives short introductions. That is not true. *[Laughter]* That's why I walked out here with him, to keep him on point. *[Laughter]* But I can't thank Jim enough for everything that he's done. He and I were just reminiscing a little bit backstage. Somebody had brought for me to sign a New York Times article—New York Times Magazine—dated November 2011. And it was some—it has a picture of me on the cover and some numbers and it says, "Is Obama Toast?" *[Laughter]* And so Jim had that blown up, and I'm signing that as well. *[Laughter]*

A couple other people I want to thank: Jon Carson, who does extraordinary work every day; we love Jon. We miss him over at the White House, but he is in the right place because he's one of the best organizers I have ever met—of anything. And he is doing just great, great work with OFA.

And then two elected officials—I see Congressman Eliot Engel here, who is doing a great job on behalf of his district back in New York. And then somebody who is not just a great colleague, but a great friend. When Deval—Deval and I have sort of hopscothed a little bit, because initially, I met Deval because he came into Chicago to campaign for me when I was still running for the U.S. Senate.

For over a century, folks have argued that in this country, the security of affordable health care is a privilege. It's not a privilege, it is a right. We are making that right a reality, but we've got to make sure that all of you stay on it, and you're going to have me every step of the way.

God bless you, everybody. God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:58 p.m. at the St. Regis Washington, D.C. hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Leslie Sheffield, volunteer, Organizing for Action, and her son Andy.

And we had a mutual friend who introduced us. And Deval, who had worked at the Justice Department and had some modest celebrity, but also was just good-looking and smart, so people like to hear him talk—*[laughter]*—so he came and did a little fundraiser for me. And so then I won the Senate race. And then I was in the Senate, and one day, he comes by to visit, and he says, "I'm thinking about running for Governor." He said, "You've won a Senate seat; how hard can this be?" *[Laughter]*

And so then he ran a historic race for Governor. And then when I decided to run for President, I sought his counsel and advice. And there's nobody who I'm not just more fond of, but who I actually think is a better public servant anywhere in the country, than the Governor of Massachusetts. So Deval Patrick.

So because I've got a bunch of friends here, I'm not going to give a big windup. I want to basically spend some time in conversation, as we usually do when we get together. I'll just make a couple of points.

Number one, the work that we've done this year has been challenging, to say the least, because of a Congress that has been resistant to everything. And I know that sometimes, that causes great frustration, even when there's not a Government shutdown. But what I want to just remind people of is that this Government is an enormous enterprise, and so even as

sometimes we see ourselves getting stymied at the congressional level, at the administrative level, in the work that we're doing, all kinds of changes are happening. Whether it's on climate change or education or speeding up services to veterans or making sure that we are creating the kind of job training programs that are going to put people back to work or making your tax dollars work more effectively to rebuild our infrastructure in this country, we're accomplishing a lot of stuff.

It doesn't always get publicity, partly because a lot of times it's not controversial. But slowly, surely, we keep on making progress on the things that you care very deeply about. And I want you guys to understand that and know that.

Number two, obviously, we've been very frustrated—I, personally, have been frustrated—with the problems around the website on health care. And it's inexcusable, and there are a whole range of things that we're going to need to do once we get this fixed: to talk about Federal procurement when it comes to IT and how that's organized. But the model of providing health insurance for all Americans and using not just what government can do, but also private sector competition and choice, that model is working.

We have in most States massively expanded the choices that people have available, and because of competition and these insurers having to chase after folks' business, premiums are lower, the deals are better, and people ultimately are going to be benefiting greatly across the board. And the website will get fixed.

So there are going to be challenges and bumps along this path—we always knew there would be—because we are not only initiating one of the largest changes in one of the largest sectors of our economy in history, but we're doing so under a very hostile political environment.

Nevertheless, the mission is the right one, and the plan is the right one. And we are going to look back a year from now, 3 years from now, 5 years from now, 10 years from now, and the American people are going to understand that in this country, finally, after decades, we are going to make sure that every single person

in this country can get affordable health care. And we're going to be driving down health care costs at the same time. That's point number two.

Point number three, despite the resistance of Congress, slowly, surely, we're starting to see some common sense starting to prevail. It hasn't quite gotten over the hump, but you're starting to see in the Senate in particular—we had already gotten the vote on immigration reform, bipartisan vote. It's ready to go. We still need help from the House, but there's still an opportunity.

We're seeing it, perhaps tonight, on the ENDA vote, which—nondiscrimination around sexual orientation—where we think that we'll probably get this done in the Senate. Again, there is going to be resistance in the House. But the more that we can continue at a grassroots level to speak out on behalf of the values that we care about—they're mainstream values. They're the values that 60, 70, 80 percent of the country believe in. And they're also the values that young people and future generations believe in.

And so I want everybody to understand that change in America has always been slow, and sometimes, you take a step back for every two steps you take forward. But inexorably, the idea of a more tolerant, more prosperous country that offers more opportunity to more people, that's an idea that the vast majority of Americans believe in.

And the challenge we've got is that with a Federal Government that has been gridlocked and a filter through which people see and receive information about government that is tilted towards cynicism, I think sometimes people, particularly on our side, end up feeling frustrated or despairing. And I'm here to tell you, we've got a righteous wind at our backs, and we are, on each of these fights, going to just keep on steadily making progress. And when the journey is over—now, the journey of the country is never over, but the journey of my Presidency is over, and we look back, I think people are going to be maybe even surprised themselves at how much we've gotten done. And that's because of you and the support that all of you provide. So I'm grateful for it.

And with that, let me start taking some questions or suggestions.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:06 p.m. in the Decanter restaurant at the St. Regis

Washington, D.C. hotel. In his remarks, he referred to James A. Messina, national chairman, and Jon Carson, executive director, Organizing for Action. He also referred to S. 815.

## Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Business Leaders To Discuss Immigration Reform

November 5, 2013

In addition to talking about the Red Sox—*[laughter]*—we are here to talk about immigration reform. We've got an outstanding group of leaders here, a wide cross-section of industry. We've got manufacturers, service sector, food, high tech. And they represent just a small cross-section of the businesses all across the country who are deeply committed to making sure that we get comprehensive immigration reform done and done quickly.

Just last week, we had 600 business and faith leaders who came to emphasize that this is something that is not only the right thing to do, but it's also critical to our economy. We know that the Senate bipartisan bill that already passed would grow the economy by \$1.4 trillion above and beyond the growth that's already taking place. We know it will reduce our deficit by \$850 billion. This is not—these aren't my estimates, these are independent estimates that had been made about the salutary effect that comprehensive immigration reform will have on our economy. And these businesses understand that.

They understand that if we are serious about border security, if we do a better job of streamlining the legal immigration system, if we are holding employers who aren't doing the right thing accountable, and we provide a pathway to citizenship for those who have paid a fine, learned English, are getting to the back of the line, taking their responsibilities, that all together, these businesses are going to have more customers, we're going to see people who are currently working here out of the shadows, paying taxes, and getting right with the law. We have the opportunity when young people come to this country to study on our

dime, making sure that if they're able and willing, they can stay here, start businesses of their own, contribute to our economy, help our exports.

So this is something that has strong bipartisan support. Keep in mind that my predecessor, George W. Bush, was a strong supporter of this. We have a fascinating cross-section of people—some unlikely bedfellows, some very liberal folks and very conservative folks—who all believe that now is the time to get this done. And as we saw in the Senate, there is the strong potential for bipartisan support.

So what I'm going to be talking to the business community about is how we can continue to amplify this issue in the coming weeks. There's no reason why we can't get this done before the end of the year. And I continue to be hopeful that with the leadership of many who are around this table, who represent hundreds of thousands of employees and billions of dollars of assets, who are important in their communities all across the country, them joining up with law enforcement, clergy, citizens to make the case, that ultimately, folks up on Capitol Hill will do the right thing.

And although right now there's been some resistance from House Republicans, what's been encouraging is, is that there are a number of House Republicans who have said, we think this is the right thing to do as well. And it's my estimation that we actually have votes to get comprehensive immigration reform done in the House right now.

The politics are challenging for the Speaker and others, and we want to make it as easy for him as possible. This is not an issue where we're looking for a political win. This is one