

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

where we're looking for a substantive win for the U.S. economy and the American people and the businesses that are represented here.

So I'm very grateful to all of you who have joined us. But we're going to be pushing to make sure that we send out that clarion call up

towards Capitol Hill, see if we can get this done before the end of the year. All right?

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:38 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Statement on the Passage of Marriage Equality Legislation in Illinois November 5, 2013

Tonight I applaud the men and women of the Illinois General Assembly, a body in which I was proud to serve, for voting to legalize marriage equality in my home State.

As President, I have always believed that gay and lesbian Americans should be treated fairly and equally under the law. Over time, I also came to believe that same-sex couples should be able to get married like anyone else. So tonight Michelle and I are overjoyed for all the committed couples in Illinois whose love will now be as legal as ours and for their friends and family who have long wanted nothing more than to see their loved ones treated fairly and equally under the law.

I also commend the members of the General Assembly for approaching this issue in a fair and open way and for recognizing the impor-

tance of our commitment to religious freedom by engaging the religious community in this conversation. Throughout this debate, they've made it clear that this is about civil marriages and civil laws and made sure that churches and other institutions of faith are still free to make their own decisions that conform to their own teachings.

As I said in my Inaugural Address last January, our journey as a nation is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law, for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well. And tonight I'm so proud that the men and women elected to serve the people of the great State of Illinois have chosen to take us one step further on that journey to perfect our Union.

Remarks at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, Texas November 6, 2013

The President. Thank you, Edna. Give Edna a big round of applause. Well, it is wonderful to see all of you. And let me just make some special mention of some people in addition to Edna who are here.

First of all, your outstanding mayor, Mike Rawlings, is here. Outstanding county judge, Clay Jenkins, who's doing a great job on affordable care. Thank you, Clay. Wonderful Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson is here. And we want to thank Rabbi David Stern and Rabbi Asher Knight of Temple Emanu-El for hosting us here today.

And the main reason I'm here is to thank all of you. Edna's story is a story that is repeated all across the country: people who got sick and

didn't have health insurance; folks who thought they had health insurance; and then, turned out, because of the fine print or them not filling something out right, they were short of what they needed in terms of getting healed.

And when I ran for office, obviously, we were in the midst of a great recession, and my number-one priority was making sure that we didn't go into a great depression and making sure that we started putting people back to work. We've now seen the economy begin to recover, although sometimes, Washington is not helpful with things like the shutdown. We've seen 7½ million new jobs created. We've seen exports at record levels. We've seen a lot of growth in places like Dallas, and