

over the last 3 years, we've seen a level of polarization that seems unique. But the truth is, is that as you travel around the country, the country—ordinary folks aren't as polarized as Washington would make us think.

Audience member. Thank God.

The President. Thank God, yes. That's important. But the only way that we advance the issues that people around the country care about is if we synch up the spirit and the goodness and the decency of the American people with our politics. And there is a whole bunch of stuff that mitigates against that: gerrymandering and the way campaigns are financed and super PACs and the Balkanization of the media. All of that pushes us apart.

What can bring us together is when we've got people like Bob and we've got people like

Michael who are principled and strong, but also recognize that before we became Democrats or Republicans, we were Americans. And so if we want that kind of politics, we've got to fight for it, and we've got to pay for it. And all of you have stepped up in the past, and I'm grateful that you're going to be willing to step up in the future as well.

So thank you very much, everybody. Thank you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:24 p.m. at the residence of David L. and Rhonda R. Cohen. In his remarks, he referred to Sen. Michael F. Bennet, in his capacity as chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Health Insurance Executives November 15, 2013

Well, I want to welcome the executives who are here from a lot of the insurance companies that are participating in the marketplace. We all share a similar value, which is, we want to make sure that Americans have good, solid coverage that gives them the security they need for themselves and their family members if and when they get sick.

And we know the demand is out there for that. We had, despite all the problems with the website, over a million people apply. Many multiples of that wanted to see what options were available. Obviously, because of the problems with the website, some folks have been blocked from seeing the well-priced benefits that are available in the marketplace, and so we're working 24/7 to get it fixed. The website is working a lot better now than it was a couple of weeks ago.

And what we're going to be doing is brainstorming on how do we make sure that everybody understands what their options are. Be-

cause of choice and competition, a whole lot of Americans who have always seen health insurance out of risk—or out of reach—are going to be in a position to purchase it. And because of the law, we're also going to be able to provide them help even if they are still having trouble purchasing that insurance. But they've got to know what those options are in order to be successful.

So I appreciate all these folks coming in. We're going to be soliciting ideas from them. This is going to be a collaborative process. We want to make sure that we get this done so that in the years to come, every American is going to have the kind of affordable health care that they all deserve.

Thank you very much for being here. Appreciate you guys.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:31 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.