

carbon emissions in a way that is actually better than the vast majority of industrialized nations over the last 5 years.

We've been able to not only create the possibility of all people enjoying the security of health care, but we've also been driving down the cost of health care, which benefits people's pocketbooks, their businesses. Our institutions of higher learning continue to be the best in the world. And you're actually—because of the productivity of our workers, we're actually seeing manufacturing move back to America in ways that we haven't seen in decades.

A lot of the reason that we're making progress is because of the inherent resilience and strength of the American people, but a lot of it is because folks like Nancy Pelosi and some of the Members of Congress, or even former Members of Congress, who are here made some tough decisions early on in my administration. And we're starting to see those bear fruit and pay off.

And so I'm incredibly optimistic about our future. But I'm also mindful of the fact that we have some barriers, some impediments to change and progress. And the biggest barrier and impediment we have right now is a Congress—and in particular, a House of Representatives—that is not focused on getting the job done for the American people, but is a lot more focused on trying to position themselves for the next election or to defeat my agenda.

And that's unfortunate, because that's not what the American people are looking for right now. And the truth is, is that there are a lot of ideas—things like early childhood education or rebuilding our infrastructure or investing in basic science and research—there are a whole range of—immigration reform—a whole range of ideas, that if you strip away the politics, there's actually a pretty broad consensus in this country.

I'm not a particularly ideological person. There are some things, some values I feel passionately about. I feel passionate about making sure everybody in this country gets a fair shake. I feel passionate about everybody being treated with dignity and respect regardless of what they look like or what their last name is or who they love. I feel passionate about making sure

that we're leaving a planet that is as spectacular as the one we inherited from our parents and our grandparents. I feel passionate about working for peace even as we are making sure that our defenses are strong.

So there are values I care about. But I'm pretty pragmatic when it comes to how do we get there. And so is Nancy, and so is Jay. And so more than anything, what we're looking for is not the defeat of another party, what we're looking for is the advancement of ideas that are going to vindicate those values that are tried and true and that have led this country to the spectacular heights that we've seen in the past.

But to do that, we're going to need Nancy Pelosi as Speaker, because there's just a lot of work to be done right now. Between now and next November, I'm going to do everything I can and look for every opportunity to work on a bipartisan basis to get stuff done. There will not be a point in time where I've got an opportunity to get something done where I don't do it simply because of politics. But those opportunity have been few and far between over the last several years, and the American people can't afford to wait in perpetuity for us to grow faster, create more jobs, strengthen our middle class, clean our environment, fix our immigration system.

And so if we don't have partners on the other side, we're going to have to go ahead and do it ourselves. And so the support that you're providing today and the support that you've provided time and again is making all the difference in the world. And it's part of what gives me confidence that we're going to be successful over the long term.

So thank you. We appreciate it. And with that, let me take some questions.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:24 p.m. at the residence of Jon A. Shirley. In his remarks, he referred to Tess Kilmer, daughter of Rep. Derek C. Kilmer; Trudi Inslee, wife of Gov. Jay R. Inslee of Washington; and John E. Frank, vice president and deputy general counsel, Microsoft Corp. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 25. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.