

unemployment benefits is going to have a drag on economic growth for next year.

So there are some basic things that we can do just to create a better economic environment for these outstanding mayors. There are some areas—for example, raising the minimum wage—that could have a tremendous boost in a lot of the cities where there are a lot of service workers who get up and do some of the critical work for all of us every single day, but oftentimes, still find themselves just barely above poverty or, in some cases, below poverty.

So what I want to do is explore ideas with them. We wish them luck. You can see that it's a diverse group, but what binds them together

is a commitment to helping people succeed in this country.

And so I want to congratulate all of them, and I'm looking forward to, over the next 3 years for me, working with them for the benefit of their constituencies. Many of them may end up being around for 20 years and—[laughter]—so they'll have other Presidents to work with.

But thank you so much for coming in.

[*At this point, several reporters called out questions.*]

Thank you, guys.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Statement on the Resignation of Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs Miguel E. Rodriguez

December 13, 2013

Miguel Rodriguez has served in my administration from day one. After a tour with Secretary Clinton at the State Department, he joined my staff in October 2011 before agreeing to serve as my Director of Legislative Affairs earlier this year. And throughout some of this year's most contentious legislative battles, Miguel worked tirelessly to bridge the partisan divide, forge consensus, and seek out solutions that helped us move forward. As the son of immigrants, I know Miguel took particular pride in the Senate's passage of a bipartisan, commonsense immigration reform plan, something that we are going to see through. I'm

grateful for his service, and I will miss his advice and counsel, but I am pleased that Katie Beirne Fallon has agreed to serve as my next Director of Legislative Affairs. As a veteran of Congress and my Deputy Director of Communications, she has the deep expertise and strong relationships required to build on the progress we've made this year and advance my top priority: creating jobs and expanding broad-based growth and opportunity for every American.

NOTE: The statement referred to former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Global Deployments of United States Combat-Equipped Armed Forces

December 13, 2013

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I am providing this supplemental consolidated report, prepared by my Administration and

consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148), as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed about deployments of U.S. Armed Forces equipped for combat.