

work remains, our system is fairer, and it's more sound than it was when the crisis hit.

Of course, we've still got a long way to go to restore that basic bargain, to restore that sense of security that too many middle class families still are fighting to rebuild. But if we just keep letting people like Rich do their jobs, if we let all these incredible young people know that you're going to keep on going for a long time, you're building something that—it will last beyond our Government's service, and we'll be providing protections for generations to come. And if we keep focused on that north star—a rising, thriving middle class, an economy where prosperity is broad based—then I'm confident that we're ultimately going to get to where we need to go.

So I want to thank everybody. And I just want to give Rich a quick chance to say something.

Director Cordray. Thank you. I want to thank the President—this President, in particular, who has believed in us from the beginning. I want to thank the Senate and the Senators for the chance to persevere and be confirmed as the Director of this Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. It's all I ever asked for—all I ever worked for—was to have a chance to have an up-or-down vote on the merits, and I thank them for that.

For nearly 2 years, as the President indicated, we have been focused on making consumer finance markets work better for the American people. Today's action—the action—I was sworn in by the Vice President this morning and the Senate confirmation—means that there will be certainty for those markets and for the industries we oversee.

For me, it also reaffirms that our central responsibility is to stand on the side of consumers and see that they're treated fairly, just as the President described it. It's something that people deserve. It's something that they want and need. And we're there to try to provide it.

We will continue that essential work, and each one of us—those of us here and those of us in Washington and around the country who work for this new Consumer Bureau, including most especially myself—we're grateful for the opportunity that you've given us to serve our country in this important way.

Thank you. Thank you, sir.

The President. I'm proud of you. Good job.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:04 a.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Sen. Elizabeth A. Warren, in her former capacity as Assistant to the President and Special Adviser to the Secretary of the Treasury on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Statement on Nelson Mandela International Day July 17, 2013

On behalf of our family and the people of the United States, Michelle and I extend our warmest wishes and prayers to Nelson Mandela on the occasion of his 95th birthday, as well as to Graça Machel, the Mandela family, and the Government and people of South Africa as they mark the fifth annual Nelson Mandela International Day. Our family was deeply moved by our visit to Madiba's former cell on Robben Island during our recent trip to South Africa, and we will forever draw strength and inspiration from his extraordinary example of moral courage, kindness, and humility.

On Nelson Mandela International Day, people everywhere have the opportunity to honor Madiba through individual and collective acts of service. Through our own lives, by heeding his example, we can honor the man who showed his own people—and the world—the path to justice, equality, and freedom. May Nelson Mandela's life of service to others and his unwavering commitment to equality, reconciliation, and human dignity continue to be a beacon for each future generation seeking a more just and prosperous world.

NOTE: The statement referred to former President Nelson R. Mandela of South Africa and his wife Graça Machel. The statement

was released by the Office of the Press Secretary as a statement by the President and the First Lady.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Former Liberian Regime of Charles Taylor

July 17, 2013

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication stating that the national emergency and related measures dealing with the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor are to continue in effect beyond July 22, 2013.

Although Liberia has made advances to promote democracy, and the Special Court for Sierra Leone recently convicted Charles Taylor for war crimes and crimes against humanity, the actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons, in

particular their unlawful depletion of Liberian resources and their removal from Liberia and secreting of Liberian funds and property, could still challenge Liberia's efforts to strengthen its democracy and the orderly development of its political, administrative, and economic institutions and resources. These actions and policies continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
July 17, 2013.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

July 18, 2013

Thank you so much, everybody. Well, I want to thank Morgan for that introduction. And I want to thank all of you for being here. There are a couple of people that I want to make sure to especially acknowledge. First of all, the leader of the Democrats in the House of Representatives and somebody who worked harder than just about anybody to get the Affordable Care Act into law: Nancy Pelosi. Please give Nancy a round of applause.

We have some outstanding Members of Congress here, some mayors and elected officials who are here. I want to give a special shout-out; I'm not going to introduce all of

them because it would take too much time, and I might miss somebody. But there is one person who's standing in front—sitting in front, who I want to acknowledge just because he has served for decades, and for decades fought to make sure that everybody had affordable, accessible coverage, and we're so proud of him: John Dingell, Congressman from Michigan.

So I want to welcome everybody to the White House. Every day, across the country and certainly here in the White House, there are people who are working as we speak to implement the Affordable Care Act and to deliver