

sha, and I listen to their friends, and I see them interact, they're better than we are—they're better than we were—on these issues. And that's true in every community that I've visited all across the country.

And so we have to be vigilant, and we have to work on these issues. And those of us in authority should be doing everything we can to encourage the better angels of our nature, as opposed to using these episodes to heighten divisions. But we should also have confidence that kids these days, I think, have more sense than we did back then and certainly more

than our parents did or our grandparents did, and that along this long, difficult journey, we're becoming a more perfect Union; not a perfect Union, but a more perfect Union. All right?

Thank you, guys.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:33 p.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to White House Press Secretary James F. "Jay" Carney; and Seminole County Circuit Judge Debra S. Nelson of Florida.

## Statement on the Federal Communications Commission's Vote on the Universal Service Program for Schools and Libraries

July 19, 2013

Today the Federal Communications Commission took a first, important step toward realizing our vision of making 21st-century classrooms available to every student in America. Preparing our Nation's students with the skills they need to get good jobs and compete with countries around the world will rely increasingly on interactive, individualized learning experiences driven by new technology. To get there, we have to build connected classrooms that support modern teaching, investments we know our international competitors are already making. Our ConnectED initiative, which has

widespread support from Republicans, Democrats, educators, business and tech leaders, and State and local officials, will ensure that the Federal Government can provide schools with the infrastructure and tools they need to deliver this competitive digital education for every student in the United States. That is the process that the FCC began today, and we look forward to the next steps in this effort as we move closer to our goal of getting 99 percent of America's students connected to the Internet through high-speed broadband and high-speed wireless within 5 years.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations

July 19, 2013

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

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 to the *Federal Register* for publication the

enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to transnational criminal organizations declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond July 24, 2013.

The activities of significant transnational criminal organizations have reached such scope and gravity that they threaten the stability of international political and economic systems. Such organizations are becoming increasingly sophisticated and dangerous to the