

You can find out more about the law and how to sign up to buy your own coverage right now at [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov). Tell your friends and neighbors without insurance about it too. And tell your kids that there's a new, easy way to buy affordable plans specifically tailored to young people.

Many Members of Congress in both parties are working hard to inform their constituents about these benefits, protections, and affordable plans. But there's also a group of Republicans in Congress working hard to confuse people and making empty promises that they'll either shut down the health care law or, if they don't get their way, they'll shut down the Government.

Think about that. They're actually having a debate between hurting Americans who will no longer be denied affordable care just because they've been sick and harming the economy and millions of Americans in the process. And many Republicans are more concerned with how badly this debate will hurt them politically than they are with how badly it'll hurt the country.

A lot of Republicans seem to believe that if they can gum up the works and make this law fail, they'll somehow be sticking it to me. But they'd just be sticking it to you.

Some even say that if you call their office with questions about the law, they'll refuse to help. Call me old fashioned, but that's lousy constituent service. And it's not what you deserve.

Your health insurance isn't something to play politics with. Our economy isn't something to play politics with. This is not a game. It's about the economic security of millions of families.

See, in the States where Governors and legislatures and insurers are working together to implement this law properly—States like California, New York, Colorado, and Maryland—competition and consumer choice are actually making insurance affordable.

So I'm going to keep doing everything in my power to make sure this law works as it's supposed to. Because in the United States of America, health insurance isn't a privilege, it's your right. And we're going to keep it that way.

Thanks, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 5:35 p.m. on August 9 in the State Dining Room at the White House for broadcast on August 17. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 16, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on August 17.

## Remarks Honoring the 1973 Super Bowl Champion Miami Dolphins August 20, 2013

*The President.* Come on over, Coach. Well, welcome to the White House, everybody. Please have a seat. Now, it's mid-August, which means football is in the air. And I love baseball, but SportsCenter is better when you've also got some football on there. [*Laughter*] College football kicks off next week; NFL regular season the week after that. And so today, just to whet everybody's appetite, I am proud to welcome the only undefeated, untied team in NFL history to the White House for the very first time: Give it up for the 1972 Miami Dolphins!

I know this is a little unorthodox four decades after the fact, but these guys never got

their White House visit after winning Super Bowl VII. I know some of them are a little harder to recognize these days. [*Laughter*] They don't have the Afros or the mutton chops, the Fu Manchus. [*Laughter*] But I want to recognize and thank, first and foremost, their outstanding coach, Coach Shula—the legendary Hall of Fame Coach Shula. I want to thank the owners, Stephen Ross, and I want to thank Tim Robbie and everyone from the Dolphins organization who helped make this event possible after all this time.

And I know that some people may be asking why we're doing this after all these years. And

my answer is simple: I wanted to be the young guy up here for once. [Laughter]

*Former quarterback Bob Griese.* That's cold. That's cold.

*The President.* I did have to explain to my staff, who mostly are in their early thirties, what an incredible impact these guys had, including on me, when they were playing. These Dolphins made history back before Super Bowl champs started visiting the White House. The first teams didn't start coming until after 1980. And let's face it, this is also just a fun thing to do. I like doing it as President. [Laughter] I even let the Packers come a couple of years ago, which was hard to do. [Laughter] So I decided that it was high time to pay tribute to the NFL's only perfect team and to get Butch and Sundance and the No-Name Defense in here too.

In 1972, these guys were a juggernaut. They had a grinding running game that wore opponents down. They became the first team ever with two thousand-yard rushers. They had the league's best offense. They had the league's best defense. They posted three shutouts. They doubled the score of their opponents eight times. And they did most of it after their outstanding Pro Bowl starting quarterback, Bob Griese, broke his leg in week 5. And that brought in backup Earl "Old Bones" Morrall—[laughter]—who unfortunately couldn't be here today. As one teammate later said, "Earl couldn't run, and he couldn't throw." But Earl could win, and that's what he and the Dolphins did again and again and again.

Winning the Super Bowl, however, was not a foregone conclusion. The Dolphins had to win in Pittsburgh just to make it there. And once they did, they still were slight underdogs to the Redskins in the big game. Plus, they'd lost in the Super Bowl the year before. People were stupidly, doubting whether Coach Shula was going to win the big one. So the pressure was on leading up to the big game. But the key to their victory, I am told, is that Csonka put an alligator in Coach Shula's shower. [Laughter]

So that loosened everybody up. The Dolphins went on to win their first of back-to-back

titles. And with every year, this team's accomplishments just look better and better. They're one of only two teams to play in three straight Super Bowls. Seven players have busts in the Hall of Fame. Coach Shula retired with more wins than any coach in NFL history. Each and every time that perfect record has been challenged, team after team has fallen short.

But these Dolphins didn't always get the credit they deserve. Some said that they only had to play 14 regular season games. I've got to come clean here. A couple a years ago, I hosted the '85 Bears out on the South Lawn. They'd also missed their chance to have a White House visit, and that day I called them the greatest team ever. But, I mean, take it with a grain of salt. They're—[laughter]—the Bears lost once in their nearly perfect season.

*Former Head Coach Don Shula.* Who beat them that year?

*The President.* It happened to be the Dolphins. [Laughter]

*Former running back Eugene E. "Mercury" Morris.* Thank you again. Thank you again.

*The President.* So I think you made your point. [Laughter] Nobody can argue with this record. Nobody can argue with what all of you have gone on to do after you hung up the shoulder pads for the last time. Players from this team have gone on to become a minister, a mayor, a doctor, a State senator, a high school counselor, many successful businessmen. Nick Buoniconti helped found the world's most comprehensive spinal cord research center. Some have dabbled in acting. [Laughter] I hear somebody serves up a pretty good T-bone as well. [Laughter]

So these are all men of accomplishment and character, and it showed on the field and off the field as well. We want to congratulate all of them, and we want to make sure that they're remembered for not only the history that sports fans will always remember, but also for all the countless contributions that they've made in their community as well.

So thank you, again. Congratulations. It's been a great honor to be here.

All right. There we go.

[At this point, the President was presented with a team jersey.]

*Former Coach Shula.* Thank you, Mr. President. It's great to be here, and we feel honored. It's been 40 years, but what the hell, we still feel honored. [Laughter] But when you look at that, the undefeated team, and we all signed it, and we want to present you with this. And even though you were a Bear fan, we understand, you've got to root for somebody, so—[laughter]. But everybody's signed this, the undefeated '72 Dolphins, and we—this is something that we hope that you find a good spot for somewhere in your office or where you

can look at it and think about the whipping that we put on that '85 Bears team. [Laughter]

*The President.* Thank you. Let's hold it up. Come on, folks. All right, everybody—are we going to strike the podium here? We've got to get a good picture.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lawrence R. "Butch" Csonka, former fullback, James F. "Sundance" Kiick, former running back, Nicholas A. Buoniconti, former linebacker, and Timothy J. Robbie, son of Joe Robbie, former owner, Miami Dolphins.

## Statement on the Presidential Election in Mali August 20, 2013

On behalf of the people of the United States, I congratulate the people of Mali and President-elect Ibrahim Boubacar Keita on a successful election on August 11. Through the interim Government's management of a peaceful, inclusive, and credible electoral process, and with the extraordinary turnout of the Malian people, this election has helped restore Mali's democratic tradition. We encourage the candidates and their supporters to accept the

results and to use this election as a foundation for further progress on democracy, national reconciliation, and addressing the security and humanitarian crises in the north. The United States stands with the people and Government of Mali as they work to advance peace and stability in Mali and the region. We look forward to working closely with the new Government to broaden and deepen the ties between our two nations.

## Remarks at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, in Buffalo, New York August 22, 2013

*The President.* Hello, Buffalo! Hello, Bulls! Well, it is good to be back in Buffalo, good to be back in New York.

I want to begin by making sure we all thank Silvana for the wonderful introduction. Give her a big round of applause. Her mom and dad are here somewhere. Where are they? I know they're pretty proud. There they are right there. Give mom and dad a big round of applause.

A number of other people I want to acknowledge here: first of all, our Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, who's doing a great job. One of the finest Governors in the coun-

try, your Governor, Andrew Cuomo is here. Your outstanding mayor, Brian Higgins, is here. Give him a big round of applause.

*Audience members.* Congressman!

*The President.* What?

*Audience members.* The mayor is Byron Brown!

*The President.* Byron Brown. That's—I'm sorry, Byron. Let me—what I meant was, your Congressman, Brian Higgins, is here. Your mayor, Byron Brown, is here. This is what happens when you get to be 52 years old. [Laughter] When I was 51, everything was smooth. [Laughter] But your Congressman and your