

Statement on Representative George Miller III's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

January 13, 2014

George Miller has proudly represented the people of California in Congress for nearly 40 years, and he has spent his career fighting to grow and strengthen the middle class. Because of his tireless efforts, our air and water are cleaner, our workers' rights are better protected, more young people can afford to go to college, and more working families can make ends meet. George was a chief author of the first bill I signed into law, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. His decades-long fight to bring quality, affordable health insurance to millions

of Americans made him an indispensable partner in developing and passing the Affordable Care Act. And he continues to fight for our shared belief that a minimum wage should be a wage you can live on. Michelle and I thank Congressman Miller for his service and leadership, and we wish him, his wife Cynthia, and their children and grandchildren the very best in the future.

NOTE: The statement referred to George and Stephen Miller, sons of Rep. Miller.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Robert L. Wilkins as a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

January 13, 2014

I am pleased that the Senate has confirmed Judge Robert Wilkins to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Judge Wilkins spent a decade as a public defender, providing legal representation to individuals who could not afford an attorney, as well as 8 years in private practice. His accomplishments outside the courtroom include helping to establish the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. In 2010, I nominated Judge Wilkins to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and since being confirmed without op-

position by the Senate to that position, he has applied the law with the utmost impartiality and integrity. I am confident that he will continue to do so on the DC Circuit. Judge Wilkins is the fourth of my nominees to be confirmed to this important court, which now has a full bench to render justice fairly and swiftly.

NOTE: The statement referred to Srikanth Srinivasan, Patricia A. Millett, and Cornelia T.L. "Nina" Pillard, judges, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

January 14, 2014

The President. All right, well, I'm glad to be able to pull together my Cabinet for the first official Cabinet meeting of the year, and I want to wish everybody a wonderful new year.

We've got a lot to do in 2014. As I've said before, this is going to be a year of action. We've seen the economy improve. We want to maximize the pace of our recovery, but most importantly, we want to make sure that every

American is able to benefit from that recovery; that we're not leaving anybody behind and everybody is getting a fair shot.

I was very pleased to see the House and the Senate agree to a budget and to put forward a bill that will fund our Government at levels that allow us to take some important steps to provide the services and the help that Americans need and American families need in order