

you care about making sure that we're investing in early childhood education and continuing to reform our schools to make them serve every child, you better make sure that we still have Democrats in control of the Senate. And that's why this is so important to me.

So the good news is, we've got great candidates. Michael has done an extraordinary job recruiting. I think the DSCC is doing a very good job in fielding a wonderful team on the ground. And I'm going to spend a lot of time and a lot of energy out there working on behalf of Democratic candidates. But we're going to need you. We cannot do this alone.

And the last thing I'll say about Democrats, we are really good at Presidential elections these days, if I do say so myself. [Laughter] And as a corollary to that, we're good at Senate and House elections during Presidential years. It's something about midterms. I don't know what it is about us. We get a little sleepy; we get a little distracted. We don't turn out to vote. We don't fund campaigns as passionately. That has to change and has got to change right

here, because too much is at stake for us to let this opportunity slip by.

So I hope that you come away from this dinner—and I thank you for everything that you're doing on behalf of our outstanding Democratic Senate candidates—but I hope you come away understanding the stakes and feeling the same passion I do about getting this done this year. This year is really, really important. The last time we had a midterm in a very difficult situation is we were right at the very trough of the recession, we paid a dear price for not paying enough attention to these midterm elections. We cannot repeat that same mistake this year. So thank you very much for everything you're doing.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:26 p.m. at the residence of former Sen. Charles S. Robb and his wife Lynda Johnson Robb. In his remarks, he referred to former President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine, who left the country after being removed from office in February by a vote in Parliament. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Remarks to the White House Press Pool in New Britain, Connecticut March 5, 2014

Well, I'll have a chance to talk to everybody a little bit later, but obviously, part of the reason that we're here is because we've got a group of outstanding Democratic Governors here in the Northwest [Northeast]<sup>o</sup> that are committed to making sure that work pays.

And we were just talking to the owners of this establishment, who pay their employees more than the minimum wage because, as the owner put it, he knows what it's like to work all his life and understands that if people are working hard, they shouldn't be in poverty and that we should be able to do everything we can to make sure that happens.

And Dan Malloy here in Connecticut is making this a top priority. I know Pete Shumlin, Lincoln Chafee, and Deval Patrick are all working with Tom Perez, our Secretary of La-

bor. And this is one—an important tool for us to help create more pathways into the middle class and make sure that if you work hard in this country, you can succeed.

There are other tools that are reflected in my budget, like the earned-income tax credit expansion that we've proposed that will also make a difference. But I'm just very proud of these Governors for the work they're doing. So thank you.

All right. So with that, let me eat.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 1 p.m. at Café Beauregard. In his remarks, he referred to Robert P. Chiovoloni and Alice A. Bruno, owners, Café Beauregard; Gov. Dannel P. Malloy of Connecticut; Gov. Peter E. Shumlin of Vermont; Gov. Lincoln D. Chafee of Rhode Island; and Gov. Deval L. Patrick of Massachusetts.

<sup>o</sup> White House correction.