

And the good news is, when we actually make these investments in kids like Alijah, when we're looking out for women like Tracy's mom, we all do better. Businesses have more customers, the country hums, people's attitudes are better, consumer confidence is up. That's how America has always grown.

So that's what's at stake. And I'm just hoping that all of you feel the same sense of urgency that I do. Like I said, I'm not on the ballot this time, but I didn't get into politics just for the office. I got into it because I believe in what we're fighting for. But I can't do it alone. Nancy can't do it alone. Debbie can't do it alone.

The President's Weekly Address

March 22, 2014

Hi, everybody. This week, I visited a community college in Florida, where I spoke with students about what we need to do to make sure our economy rewards the hard work of every American. More specifically, I spoke about making sure our economy rewards the hard work of women.

Today, women make up about half of our workforce and more than half of our college graduates. More women are now their family's main breadwinner than ever before.

But in a lot of ways, our economy hasn't caught up to this new reality yet. On average, a woman still earns just 77 cents for every dollar a man does. And too many women face outdated workplace policies that hold them back, which in turn holds back our families and our entire economy.

A woman deserves to earn equal pay for equal work and paid leave that lets you take a day off to care for a sick child or parent. Congress needs to act on these priorities.

And when women hold most lower wage jobs in America, Congress needs to raise the minimum wage. Because no woman who works full time should ever have to raise her children in poverty.

Now, the good news is that in the year since I first called on Congress to raise the minimum

We're going to need you. And I'm grateful you're here for that.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:45 p.m. at the residence of Tracy and Alonzo H. Mourning. In his remarks, he referred to Alijah H. Mourning, Alonzo Mourning III, and Myka Sydney Mourning, children of Mr. and Mrs. Mourning; Jean "Nana" Wilson, mother of Mrs. Mourning; José Garcia, Sr., father of Rep. Joe Garcia; Felecia Williams, president, Valencia College, West Campus; Orlando, FL, resident Eve Gassman; and President François Hollande of France. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

wage, six States have passed laws to raise theirs. More States, counties, and cities are working to raise their minimum wages as we speak. Small businesses like St. Louis-based Pi Pizzeria are raising their wages too, not out of charity, but because it's good for business. And Pi, by the way, makes a really good pizza. In this year of action, I've signed an Executive order requiring Federal contractors to pay their employees a fair wage of at least \$10.10 an hour.

But if we're truly going to reward the hard work of every American, Congress needs to join the rest of the country and pass a bill that would lift the Federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. This wouldn't just raise wages for minimum wage workers, its effects would lift wages for nearly 28 million Americans across this country. It will give businesses more customers with more money to spend and grow the economy for everybody. So call up your Member of Congress and let them know it's time for "10-10." It's time to give America a raise.

A true opportunity agenda is one that works for working women. Because when women succeed, America succeeds. We do better when everyone participates and when everyone who works hard has the chance to get ahead. That's what opportuni-

ty means, and it's why I'll keep fighting to restore it.

Thanks, everybody, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 2 p.m. on March 21 in the Roosevelt

Room at the White House for broadcast on March 22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 21, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on March 22.

Statement on the Fourth Anniversary of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

March 23, 2014

Since I signed the Affordable Care Act into law, the share of Americans with insurance is up, and the growth of health care costs is down to its slowest rate in 50 years, two of the most promising developments for our middle class and our fiscal future in a long time.

More Americans with insurance have gained new benefits and protections: the 100 million Americans who've gained the right to free preventive care like mammograms and contraception, the 8 million seniors who've saved thousands of dollars on their prescription drugs, and the untold number of families who won't be driven into bankruptcy by out-of-pocket costs because this law prevents insurers from placing dollar limits on the care you can receive.

More Americans without insurance have gained coverage. Over the past 4 years, over 3 million young Americans have been able to stay on their family plans. And over the past 5½ months alone, more than 5 million Americans have signed up to buy private health insurance plans on healthcare.gov, plans that can no longer discriminate against preexisting conditions or charge you more just because you're a woman or a cancer survivor. And millions more have enrolled in Medicaid.

It is these numbers, and the stories behind each one of them, that will ultimately determine the fate of this law. It is the measurable

outcomes—in savings for families and businesses, healthier kids with better performance in schools, seniors with more money to spend because they're paying less for their medicine, and young entrepreneurs who'll have the freedom to try new jobs or chase that new idea—that will ultimately offer more security and peace of mind to more Americans who work hard to get ahead.

Last month, after her first wellness visit under her new insurance plan, a woman from Colorado shared with me what that peace of mind meant to her. "After using my new insurance for the first time, you probably heard my sigh of relief from the White House," she wrote. "I felt like a human being again. I felt that I had value."

This is what's at stake anytime anyone, out of some outdated obsession, pledges to repeal or undermine the Affordable Care Act. And that's why my administration will spend the fifth year of this law and beyond working to implement and improve on it.

If you're an American who wants to get covered—or if you know someone who should—it's now last call for 2014. March 31 is the deadline to get covered this year. So check out healthcare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596 to see what new choices are available to you, and get covered today.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Mark Rutte of the Netherlands in Amsterdam, Netherlands

March 24, 2014

Prime Minister Rutte. Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Netherlands. Welcome

to Amsterdam. And, Barack, welcome to this very special location.