

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Immigration Reform Legislation

March 26, 2014

Last year, Democrats and Republicans in the Senate came together to pass a common-sense bill to fix our broken immigration system, a bill that would grow our economy, shrink our deficits, and reward businesses and workers that play by the rules. But so far, Republicans in the House have refused to allow meaningful immigration reform legislation to even come up for a vote.

That's why today I applaud the efforts of Democrats in the House to give immigration reform the yes-or-no vote it deserves. Like the Senate bill, the House bill would strengthen our borders, modernize our legal immigration system, and keep more families together. It

would make sure everyone plays by the same rules by providing a pathway to earned citizenship for those who are living in the shadows. And according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, it would grow our economy and reduce our deficits by \$900 billion over the next 20 years.

Immigration reform is the right thing to do for our economy, our security, and our future. A vast majority of the American people agree. The only thing standing in the way is the unwillingness of Republicans in Congress to catch up with the rest of the country. And I want to thank the leaders in Congress who are doing their part to move us forward.

Statement on the Connecticut Legislature's Passage of Legislation To Raise the Minimum Wage

March 26, 2014

Today the Connecticut Legislature took an important step towards raising the State minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour and giving more Connecticut workers the raise they deserve. When I visited Connecticut earlier this month, I was joined by Governor Malloy and three of his fellow New England Governors, who represent just a few of the many States, cities, and counties across our country working to raise their minimum wages. I support these efforts, and I commend Governor Malloy for his leadership. But to truly make sure our economy rewards the hard work of every American, Con-

gress must act. I hope Members of Congress, Governors, State legislators, and business leaders across our country will follow Connecticut's lead to help ensure that no American who works full time has to raise a family in poverty and that every American who works hard has the chance to get ahead.

NOTE: The statement referred to Gov. Lincoln D. Chafee of Rhode Island; Gov. Deval L. Patrick of Massachusetts; and Gov. Peter E. Shumlin of Vermont.

Joint Statement by the United States and the European Union

March 26, 2014

1. We, the leaders of the European Union and the United States, met today in Brussels to reaffirm our *strong partnership*. We reaffirmed our shared values of democracy, individual freedom, the rule of law and human rights, and a common commitment to open so-

cieties and economies. Starting from those values, the European Union and the United States work together every day to address issues of vital interest and importance to our citizens and the world. We strive to create jobs and sustainable growth through sound