

business sense while at the same time having a positive impact on the community.” Yasmin’s right. That’s why, 2 months ago, I issued an Executive order requiring workers on new Federal contracts to be paid a fair wage of at least \$10.10 an hour.

But in order to make a difference for every American, Congress needs to do something, and America knows it. Right now there’s a bill that would boost America’s minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. That would lift wages for nearly 28 million Americans across the country—28 million. And we’re not just talking about young people on their first job. The average minimum wage worker is 35 years old. They work hard, often in physically demanding jobs.

And while not all of us always see eye to eye politically, one thing we overwhelmingly agree on is that nobody who works full time should ever have to live in poverty. That’s why nearly three in four Americans support raising the minimum wage. The problem is, Republicans in Congress don’t support raising the minimum wage. Some even want to get rid of it entirely. In Oklahoma, for example, the Republican Governor just signed a law prohibiting cities from establishing their own minimum wage.

That’s why this fight is so important. That’s why people like John and Yasmin are giving

their workers a raise. That’s why several States, counties, and cities are going around Congress to raise their workers’ wages. That’s why I’ll keep up this fight. Because we know that our economy as a whole works best when it works for all of us, not just a fortunate few. We believe we do better when everyone who works hard has a chance to get ahead. That’s what opportunity is all about.

And if you agree with us, we could use your help. Republicans have voted more than 50 times to undermine or repeal health care for millions of Americans. They should vote at least once to raise the minimum wage for millions of working families. If a Republican in Congress represents you, tell him or her it’s time to give the politics a rest for a while and do something to help working Americans. It’s time for “10–10.” It’s time to give America a raise.

Thanks, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 11:55 a.m. on April 18 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on April 26. In the address, the President referred to Gov. Mary Fallin of Oklahoma. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 25, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on April 26.

Remarks at a Roundtable Discussion With Business Executives in Seoul, South Korea *April 26, 2014*

All right. Well, I want to thank Jim Kim and the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea for hosting us. And I’m very pleased to be meeting with these business leaders, both Korean and American, who have been in discussions with Michael Froman, our Ambassador for trade, as well as Caroline Atkinson, who is one of my senior advisers on international economics, because what we want to do is to underscore the fact that, as important as the security relationship and the alliance is between the Republic of Korea and the United States, what is also important is the incredible and growing

economic ties that are creating jobs and opportunity in both countries.

I said yesterday with President Park that under the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, our trade has increased. These business leaders know concretely what this means. American companies are exporting more to Korea; Korean companies are exporting more to the United States. So it’s a win-win for both countries.

We also know that we still have some more work to do to fully implement the trade agreement and make sure that we’re maximizing its

benefits, that our companies can compete fairly in areas like autos and IT and organic foods. And I discussed this with President Park last night. We both agreed that these are issues we can work through together. And given South Korea's interest in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, fully implementing KORUS also is the single most important step that South Korea can take now to show that it's prepared to eventually meet the high standards of TPP.

And finally, we are joined by some outstanding Korean companies that are already invested in the United States, and we want to thank them for their investments and the jobs that they're creating back home.

I just want to remind companies around the world that if you are looking for a great place to set up shop, come to the United States. We've got outstanding workers, great universities, incredible productivity, great energy sources, and a pretty big consumer market, last I checked. And you're also going to have a White

House and Federal Government that—working with State and local governments, who are absolutely committed to making it easier for companies to invest in the United States. And whether it's high skills that you're looking for or productivity, our open economy, research and development, innovation, I think more and more companies realize it makes sense to locate in the U.S. And with our SelectUSA initiative, we're making it easier to invest.

So I just wanted to thank these leaders. With that, I'm going to actually spend most of my time listening, but I look forward to all the suggestions or recommendations that are being provided by both the Korean and the U.S. business leaders, because I'm confident that this is going to be one of the key economic relationships of the 21st century.

All right. Thank you so much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:11 a.m. at the Grand Hyatt Seoul hotel.

Remarks to United States Troops and Embassy Personnel at United States Army Garrison Yongsan in Seoul April 26, 2014

The President. Hey! Thank you. Well, hello, Yongsan! It is—

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. Hey, who—[laughter]. It is good to be back at the Yongsan Garrison. I want to thank one of our military's most tested, trusted leaders for that outstanding introduction—General Mike Scaparrotti. Now, I've been told—I don't know if you've heard this story—that, years ago, Scap was actually an extra in a movie about the Battle of Inchon, the turning point of the Korean war. So it's only fitting that after a career of proud service that's taken him from West Point to Iraq, to Afghanistan, he is now commander of U.S. Forces Korea. And we could not be prouder of his effort.

He's got a great partner in our other representative, Ambassador Kim, a proud Korean American, for strengthening the rock-solid alliance between the United States and the Re-

public of Korea. Give Ambassador Kim a big round of applause.

All of you have helped keep this alliance the linchpin of security and stability in the Asia-Pacific. The Eighth Army is in the house.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. The Seventh Air Force is in the house.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. U.S. Naval Forces Korea.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. U.S. Marine Forces Korea.

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. Special Operations Command.

Audience members. Hooah!

We've got our standing DOD civilians. And we have our wonderful U.S. Embassy staff are here as well.

Audience member. And the VA!

The President. Yes, good job, VA—in the house! [Laughter]