

and yesterday's turnout demonstrated to the world that they seek to pursue a more stable and peaceful future through the political process. Once results are finalized, a new Parliament will convene and debate the makeup of a new Government to serve the Iraqi people. Whatever the outcome of this process, it should serve to unite the country through the

formation of a new Government that is supported by all Iraqi communities and that is prepared to advance tangible and implementable programs. There will be more difficult days ahead, but the United States will continue to stand with the Iraqi people as partners in their pursuit of a peaceful, unified, and prosperous future.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2015 *May 1, 2014*

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Homeland Security, the Interior, and State, as well as the National Science Foundation and the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia. These amendments do not affect the proposed FY 2015 Budget totals.

These amendments are necessary to reflect correctly policies assumed in the FY 2015 Budget. The details of these amendments are set forth in the enclosure from the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

The President's News Conference With Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany *May 2, 2014*

President Obama. Well, good morning, everybody. It is always a great pleasure to welcome my friend Chancellor Merkel to the White House. Germany is one of our strongest allies, and Angela is one of my closest partners. And with her indulgence, I want to start by making two brief comments.

First, as President, my top priority is doing everything that we can to create more jobs and opportunity for hard-working families, for our economic strength is a source of strength in the world. And this morning we learned that our businesses created 273,000 new jobs last month. All told, our businesses have now created 9.2 million new jobs over 50 consecutive months of job growth.

The grit and determination of the American people are moving us forward, but we have to keep a relentless focus on job creation and creating more opportunities for working families.

There's plenty more that Congress should be doing, from raising the minimum wage to creating good construction jobs rebuilding America. And I want to work with them wherever I can, but I keep acting on my own whenever I must to make sure every American who works hard has the chance to get ahead.

Second point: I also want to say on behalf of the American people that our thoughts are with the people of Afghanistan, who have experienced an awful tragedy. We are seeing reports of a devastating landslide, on top of recent floods. Many people are reported missing; rescue efforts are underway. Just as the United States has stood with the people of Afghanistan through a difficult decade, we stand ready to help our Afghan partners as they respond to this disaster. For even as our war there comes to an end this year, our commitment to Afghanistan and its people will endure.