

now have a bill that will fund our Government, all our vital services: make sure that we are able to provide the needs for our veterans; to make sure that we are doing everything we need to do to advance our research agenda in this country and innovate; to make sure that we're investing in the job training that young people desperately need in order to get the skills to find that good-paying job.

Across the board, our Government is going to be operating without, hopefully, too many glitches over the next year. And not only is that good for all of you and all the dedicated public servants in the Federal Government, but most importantly, it's good for the American people because it means that we can focus our attention where we need to: on growing this economy and making sure that everybody gets a fair shot as long as they try.

We would not be here and we would not be able to sign this legislation if it hadn't been for your work and your dedication. And so this is my way of saying thank you. I want to say thank you to Sylvia and Brian and the whole team here and everybody represented because, goodness gracious, that is a big piece of business. [Laughter] That is a big bill. [Laughter] And I'm always interested on, like, where do they have the boxes for the really big ones? [Laughter] Somebody makes them.

But what that represents is just hours and hours and weekends and nights where people

are really paying attention and sweating the details. And that's what you do. So these aren't numbers. These are homeless folks who are getting housing. These are a laid-off worker who suddenly is enrolling in that community college and finding that job that allows them to save a home and get back on track. That's some young scientist who is maybe going to find a cure for cancer or Alzheimer's. That's what those numbers represent. And that's because of you.

So thank you for your good work. And without further delay, so you guys can start your weekends—[laughter]—and I've got to get back because somebody is having a birthday today. [Laughter] I've got to make sure I pay them some attention. [Laughter] I'm going to go ahead and sit down and sign the bill. All right?

And I'm going to use all these pens. [Laughter]

[At this point, the President signed the bill.]

There we go.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:05 p.m. at the Office of Management and Budget in the New Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Rep. Harold D. Rogers, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 3547, approved January 17, was assigned Public Law No. 113–76.

Statement on Senator Thomas A. Coburn's Decision Not To Seek Reelection January 17, 2014

Those of us who have had the privilege of serving with Tom Coburn will be sad to lose him as a colleague here in Washington. Tom and I entered the Senate at the same time, becoming friends after our wives struck up a conversation at an orientation dinner. And even though we haven't always agreed politically, we've found ways to work together: to make Government more transparent, cut down on

earmarks, and fight to reduce wasteful spending and make our tax system fairer. The people of Oklahoma have been well served by this "country doctor from Muskogee" over the past 9 years, and I'm confident that Tom's strength and optimism will carry him through the battles to come. Michelle and I will always be grateful to Tom and Carolyn for their friendship, and we wish them all the best in all the years ahead.