

wage, majority of the people agree with us. Comprehensive immigration reform, people agree with us; they know that immigration is going to help drive this economy forward. Equal pay for equal work, there should be no debate about it.

On issue after issue, people believe what we believe. But what they don't really believe at this point is that government can get anything done. And they've been persuaded in part because of how it's presented that it's the fault of both parties: Democrats are just as unreasonable as Republicans, and that must be why nothing works. Well, you know what, when Nancy Pelosi was Speaker, we got a lot done, and it made a big difference to the people, and it helped folks.

And so if we are to push back against the cynicism that is always good for Republicans—because it means folks don't vote—then we've got to win these midterms. And we've got to be serious about it. We have to have the same sense of urgency that we do when Presidential candidates are at the top of the ballot. We turn out during Presidential elections; we don't in midterms. Our voters do not. And that's why an event like this is so important. We know

how to turn folks out. We've got to make sure that we've got the resources to do it.

And I have to close by saying this: Despite the current frustrations when it comes to Washington, we've got the best cards when it comes to our future. There's no other country I would rather be. We've got the best workers, the best universities, the best scientists, the most dynamic economy. We're blessed by this incredible, natural bounty. We have got everything it takes to pass on to our children and our grandchildren, an America that is greater than the one we live in now. But we've got to seize the moment, and to do that, we've got to have a Congress that functions. And to have a Congress that functions, we've got to make sure that Democrats are making progress in this midterm.

So thank you for being here. We've got a lot of work to do.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:18 p.m. at the residence of Jeff and Lora Drezner. In his remarks, he referred to former Mayor Thomas J. D'Alessandro III of Baltimore, MD. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Meeting With Business Leaders May 20, 2014

The President. For the press, I just want to point out these are some outstanding companies, all of whom are investing in the United States, are representing major companies that see the U.S. as a great place to do business. We have made enormous strides over the last several years not just recovering from a great recession, but taking advantage of and now marketing the advantages of doing business in the United States, whether it's low energy costs, an incredibly productive workforce.

Obviously, we have the most dynamic and creative and innovative economy in the world, but we don't always do what it takes to go after business around the world and make sure that they know the benefits of investing in the largest market on Earth. And we want to be more systematic about it. We want to make sure that

the Federal Government is working in sync with State and local governments when it comes to locating businesses here in the United States.

SelectUSA turned out to be an enormously successful process, where we're coordinating between agencies as well as other stakeholders. And we want to make sure that it's even more successful the next time. And so this is a terrific venue for us to learn from some outstanding companies. And we're announcing that we'll have our next SelectUSA conference—give me the exact date, Jeff.

National Economic Council Director Jeffrey D. Zients. March of 2015.

The President. March of 2015, which is right around the corner. [Laughter]

So thank you for participating. We're very excited about it. Thanks, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the United States-Poland Taxation Convention May 20, 2014

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to its ratification, the Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Poland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on February 13, 2013, at Warsaw (the "proposed Convention"). I also transmit for the information of the Senate the report of the Department of State, which includes an overview of the proposed Convention.

The proposed Convention replaces the existing Convention, signed in 1974, and was negotiated to bring United States-Poland tax treaty relations into closer conformity with current U.S. tax treaty policies. For example, the

proposed Convention contains provisions designed to address "treaty shopping," which is the inappropriate use of a tax treaty by residents of a third country, that the existing Convention does not. Concluding the proposed Convention with Poland has been a top priority for the tax treaty program at the Department of the Treasury.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the proposed Convention and give its advice and consent to its ratification.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
May 20, 2014.

Remarks on Veterans Health Care and an Exchange With Reporters May 21, 2014

The President. Good morning, everybody. I just met with Secretary Shinseki and Rob Nabors, who I've temporarily assigned to work with Secretary Shinseki and the VA. And we focused on two issues: the allegations of misconduct at Veterans Affairs facilities, and our broader mission of caring for our veterans and their families.

As Commander in Chief, I have the honor of standing with our men and women in uniform at every step of their service: from the moment they take their oath to when our troops prepare to deploy, to Afghanistan, where they put their lives on the line for our security, to their bedside, as our wounded warriors fight to recover from terrible injuries. The most searing moments of my Presidency have been going to Walter Reed or Bethesda or Bagram and meeting troops who have left a part of themselves

on the battlefield. And their spirit and their determination to recover and often to serve again is always an inspiration.

So these men and women and their families are the best that our country has to offer. They've done their duty, and they ask nothing more than that this country does ours, that we uphold our sacred trust to all who have served.

So when I hear allegations of misconduct—any misconduct, whether it's allegations of VA staff covering up long wait times or cooking the books—I will not stand for it. Not as Commander in Chief, but also not as an American. None of us should. So if these allegations prove to be true, it is dishonorable, it is disgraceful, and I will not tolerate it, period.

Here's what I discussed with Secretary Shinseki this morning. First, anybody found to have manipulated or falsified records at VA facilities