

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