

istration and in Congress and in State capitals and in college campuses and on our military bases and all across our country. This is a priority for me not only as President and Commander in Chief, but as a husband and a father of two extraordinary girls.

I've often said in my travels around the world: You can judge a nation and how successful it will be based on how it treats its women and its girls. Those nations that are successful, they're successful in part because women and girls are valued. And I'm determined that, by that measure, the United States of America will be the global leader. I'm grateful to each of you for making sure that happens. I'm grateful for Joe Biden for having led the charge both in Congress and in my administration on many of these issues.

And now I'd ask that those of you who will be joining me, please come up so I can sign this memorandum.

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

Done. All right.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:05 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Senior Adviser Valerie B. Jarrett; and Chief of Staff to the First Lady Christina M. Tchen, in her capacity as Executive Director of the White House Council of Women and Girls. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Vice President Biden, who introduced the President. The memorandum is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on the 41st Anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision in *Roe v. Wade*

January 22, 2014

Today, as we reflect on the 41st anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, we recommit ourselves to the decision's guiding principle: that every woman should be able to make her own choices about her body and her health. We reaffirm our steadfast commitment to protecting a woman's access to safe, affordable health care and her constitutional

right to privacy, including the right to reproductive freedom. And we resolve to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, support maternal and child health, and continue to build safe and healthy communities for all our children. Because this is a country where everyone deserves the same freedom and opportunities to fulfill their dreams.

Remarks at a United States Conference of Mayors Reception

January 23, 2014

Thank you. Please have a seat. The—well, welcome to the White House. It is great to have you. For those of you who have been here before, welcome back. I see a lot of friends and a lot of familiar faces around the room, but I've also already had a chance to meet some newly elected mayors. So to all of you, congratulations, and make sure you're shoveling the snow. [Laughter] I—just a little piece of advice. It's been cold.

We've got more than 250 mayors here from more than 45 States and Territories. You repre-

sent about 40 million Americans. And over the last 5 years, thanks in part to the partnerships that we've been able to forge with mayors in this room and across the country, we've accomplished some big things on behalf of the American people.

But you know as well as anybody that while our economy is growing stronger and we are optimistic about growth this year and in subsequent years, we've got a lot more work to do to make sure that everybody has a chance to get ahead. If they're willing to work hard and take