

Statement on the Observance of Juneteenth

June 19, 2014

On this day in 1865, more than 2 years after President Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation, word finally reached Galveston, Texas, that the slaves there were free.

Juneteenth marked an important moment in the life of our Nation. But it was only the beginning of a long and difficult struggle for

equal rights and equal treatment under the law. This year, as we also mark the 50th Anniversary of Freedom Summer, we honor those who continued to fight for equality and opportunity for Americans of every race and every background, and we recommit ourselves to the unending work of perfecting our Union.

Statement on the Massachusetts Legislature's Passage of Legislation To Raise the Minimum Wage

June 19, 2014

I commend the Massachusetts Legislature for standing up for working men and women in the Commonwealth and taking action toward raising the State's minimum wage to \$11 per hour by 2017. Under the leadership of Governor Patrick, Massachusetts joins a growing coalition of States, cities, and counties that are

doing part to make sure no American working full time has to support a family in poverty.

I look forward to Governor Patrick signing this bill into law soon, and I urge Congress to follow Massachusetts' lead and lift wages for 28 million Americans by raising the Federal minimum wage to \$10.10.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Disposition of Russian Highly Enriched Uranium

June 19, 2014

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the emergency declared in Executive Order 13617 of June 25, 2012, with respect to the disposition of Russian highly enriched uranium is to continue in effect beyond June 25, 2014.

The risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13617 with respect to the disposition of Russian highly enriched uranium.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
June 19, 2014.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.