

national service. We've tested innovations. We're creating new models of partnership. We've reached out to the public—to the private sector. So AmeriCorps is as effective today as it's ever been.

We've created new AmeriCorps programs to address specific needs. For example, FEMA Corps trains and deploys national servicemembers to help communities recover from disasters like hurricanes and tornadoes. School Turnaround AmeriCorps sends talented individuals into underachieving schools. The new Justice AmeriCorps will pair AmeriCorps members who are lawyers and paralegals with unaccompanied immigrant children to get them legal help. STEM AmeriCorps is mobilizing scientists and engineers to inspire young people to discover and tinker and innovate and make things.

And we've brought businesses and nonprofits on board. So we've seen again and again how national service helps people—young people gain valuable skills and training, and employers have noticed. So we want to do more to help talented national service members find good jobs after they wrap up their service. And that's the idea behind an initiative we're announcing today called Employers of National Service. If you are an employer—[*applause*]*—*if you're an employer who wants to hire talented, dedicated, patriotic, skilled, tireless, energetic workers, look to AmeriCorps, look to the Peace Corps.

And organizations like the Disney Company and American Red Cross and City of Nashville, United Way, others are already signing up. They know what we know: Citizens who perform national service are special. You want them on your team.

As of a few minutes ago, that includes our newest members, AmeriCorps class of 2014. So

you've got Catherine Stodola who just took the pledge. She's helping homeless veterans find housing through Habitat for Humanity here in Washington. You've got Jay Savoy who took the pledge. And through City Year, she's going to be—[*applause*]*—*she's leading a team of tutors for kids like herself in her old neighborhood in Southeast DC. Ivan, who you just heard from, took the pledge and is mentoring young people through Public Allies in Maryland.

Seventy-five thousand members of this year's AmeriCorps class will spread out across the country, and they are doing their part to help make America safer and healthier and more fair and more just. Because like all those who serve their country through AmeriCorps, they don't just believe in, but live out a fundamental truth, and that is that people who love their country can change it.

That is the genius of America. That is the promise of AmeriCorps. It's one of the reasons I am so committed to this program and why I'm so hopeful about the future. We are proud of you. That goes for all the AmeriCorps members over the years. And I'll always be proud to serve a country where there are such striving, dreaming citizens like all of you. Congratulations.

God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you, President Clinton.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:48 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ivan Marchena, Public Allies volunteer, AmeriCorps, who introduced the President; AmeriCorps alumna Dayna Long, pediatrician, Children's Hospital Oakland in Oakland, CA, who introduced former President William J. Clinton; and Phyllis Nichamoff Segal, wife of the late Eli Segal, former Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Remarks at a Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Fundraiser in Baltimore, Maryland September 12, 2014

Thank you. Everybody, have a seat. Well, to Howard and the whole family, thank you so

much for opening your gorgeous home. It is actually the fact that Howard has been a great

friend dating back to when a lot of folks still couldn't pronounce my name. [*Laughter*] And those are the friends that you always remember and the people you really count on are folks who were there early for you and believed in your vision. And so Howard and his whole family have been wonderful, and I'm very, very grateful.

A couple other people to acknowledge, although Howard has already mentioned them. You have two of the best Senators in the country in Barbara Mikulski and Senator Cardin. You've got some of the best Members of Congress in the country: Elijah Cummings, Dutch Ruppersberger, John Sarbanes. You've got an outstanding mayor in Baltimore in Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. And although he is not from around these parts, he is just a wonderful person who has a pretty thankless job and that is making sure that Democrats retain control of the Senate, and he is doing outstanding work and is just a model public servant: Michael Bennet from Colorado.

So I'm not going to speak long at the top. I want to spend most of the time just answering questions. I'm among friends here. So many of you have heard me speak and been supporters, and we've had a lot of interactions, so this is really just a great chance for me to have a good conversation with you.

As Howard indicated, we live in deeply troubled times internationally. Challenging times. I made a speech this week discussing what is the most prominent threat that we face in the Middle East when it comes to terrorism, and that is the organization ISIL, that has not only taken over large swaths of Iraq and Syria, but displayed the kind of brutality that even by the standards of terrorists is extraordinary. And I am very confident that with an Iraqi Government in place that is committed to the kind of inclusive Government that is needed there and sadly has not been there for some time, and the kind of coalition that we're putting together internationally, and most importantly, the incredible courage and dedication and skills of our men and women in uniform, we're going to be able to push them back and ultimately destroy them.

But it's a sobering time, because any time as Commander in Chief that I order our men and women in uniform into harm's way, there are risks involved. And so I'm grateful to them. What gives me confidence is that we're on the right side of history here. And what also is a silver lining in the terrible mayhem that ISIL has wrought throughout the region is that it has focused attention, I think, for the first time in a long time in the Muslim world, a great clarity about the need to completely distance from and ultimately snuff out this particular brand of Islamic extremism that really has no place in the 21st century.

And so we're going to be able to build the kind of coalition that allows us to lead, but also isn't entirely dependent on what we do. And that's, I think, a measure of how we've got to approach these problems, because they're not going to go away immediately. We will defeat ISIL, but there are always going to be these threats of terrorism, and we're going to have to make sure that we are creating the structure and the partnerships and the commitment that allows us over the long haul to win this fight.

But obviously, that's not the only challenge that we have. On Ukraine, we've seen a Russian Government that has rejected international norms, violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a neighbor. And that raises important challenges for us as leaders of NATO. I just came back from Wales, where, once again, because of American leadership, we've seen all 28 NATO countries and partner countries mobilize themselves to isolate Russia and to support Ukrainian bids for independence and freedom.

And if it were not for us, I think it's fair to say that the situation would be much worse. But it's something that we are going to have to not just pay attention to, but continue to organize, not so much because Ukraine itself is a vital national security threat to us—we do very little trade with Ukraine, and geopolitically, it doesn't—what happens in Ukraine doesn't pose a direct threat to us—but because we are expected to uphold basic international rules and norms. And those rules and norms are what not only allows us to prosper, but has

allowed an unprecedented number of people to rise out of poverty and wealth to spread to vast corners of the world and the Internet to connect the world together.

It's because we, over the course of the entire post-World War II era, created these structures. And we're obliged to continue to tend to them and protect them and defend them. And that's what I intend to do.

But in addition to these big international challenges, I think it's important for us to remember that for most Americans, day to day, what they're concerned about is, can I send my kid to college? Day to day, what they're thinking about is, boy, I'm working really, really hard, and I haven't had a raise or an increase in my wages in a very long time; I'm a woman and I know that I'm doing as good of a job as the person next to me, and somehow, I don't think I'm being treated quite the same when it comes to compensation or promotions.

Those are the issues that people experience viscerally in their day-to-day lives. And if you want to know why we're here today, it's because having a strong Democratic Senate allows us to continue to pursue a vision of an inclusive, progressive, economic agenda that is going to continue to give more and more people the chance to pursue the American Dream in the way that I have and Howard has and so many people around this room have.

We have made extraordinary strides over the last 5 years. And sometimes, I think we take for granted the fact that we've had the longest uninterrupted stretch of job growth in American history; that we have cut the deficit by more than half; that our energy production is higher than we've seen in decades and our clean energy is being produced at a rate we've never seen before; that we've got more kids going to college now, the high school graduation rate has increased during this period of time.

The President's Weekly Address

September 13, 2014

As Commander in Chief, my highest priority is the security of the American people. And I've made it clear that those who threaten the

United States will find no safe haven. Thanks to our military and counterterrorism professionals, we took out Usama bin Laden, much of

And despite a few bumps along the way, we've got millions of people who have health care who didn't have it before, and by the way, the costs of health care have been growing at a slower rate than any time in the last 50 years. So we've made unbelievable progress: an auto industry that rose up from the ashes and now is producing better cars than ever, a financial system that stabilized more manufacturing any time in the last 20 years. And around the world, when you ask people, where is the number-one place to invest, they don't say China anymore, which is what they had been saying recently. They now say, once again, the United States of America.

So we've got all the cards. We have the most powerful military on Earth by a massive margin. We have the best workers. We've got the most innovative companies. We are at the cutting edge of every piece of technology. We are the envy of the world, but in order to actually fully realize that potential, we've got to have a government that works. And the reason you're here today is you recognize that and you're willing to make sacrifices for it.

And for that, we are extraordinarily grateful. And we want to make sure that Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin and Michael Bennet—all the folks in Senate—and then all those folks in the House, that they're able to pursue a vision that assures our children and our grandchildren are going to have just the same amazing opportunities and the same security and the same prosperity as we've enjoyed in our lives.

So thank you for making that sacrifice. Appreciate it very much. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:15 p.m. at the residence of Howard E. Friedman. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.