

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

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.

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

Al Qaida's leadership in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and leaders of Al Qaida affiliates in Yemen and Somalia. We've prevented terrorist attacks, saved American lives, and made our homeland more secure.

Today, the terrorist threat is more diffuse, from Al Qaida affiliates and other extremists, like ISIL in Syria and Iraq. As I said this week, our intelligence community has not yet detected specific ISIL plots against our homeland. But its leaders have repeatedly threatened the United States. And if left unchecked, these terrorists could pose a growing threat beyond the Middle East, including to the United States. So we're staying vigilant. And we're moving ahead with our strategy to degrade and ultimately destroy this terrorist organization.

To meet a threat like this, we have to be smart. We have to use our power wisely. And we have to avoid the mistakes of the past. American military power is unmatched, but this can't be America's fight alone. And the best way to defeat a group like ISIL isn't by sending a large number of American combat forces to wage a ground war in the heart of the Middle East. That wouldn't serve our interests. In fact, it would only risk fueling extremism even more.

What's needed now is a targeted, relentless counterterrorism campaign against ISIL that combines American air power, contributions from allies and partners, and more support to forces that are fighting these terrorists on the ground. And that's exactly what we're doing.

We're moving ahead with our campaign of airstrikes against these terrorists, and we're prepared to take action against ISIL in Syria as well. The additional American forces I've ordered to Iraq will help Iraqi and Kurdish forces with the training, intelligence, and equipment they need to take the fight to these terrorists on the ground. We're working with Congress to expand our efforts to train and equip the Syrian opposition. We'll continue to strengthen our defenses here at home. And we'll keep providing the humanitarian relief to help Iraqi civilians who have been driven from

their homes and who remain in extreme danger.

Because we're leading the right way, more nations are joining our coalition. This week, Arab nations agreed to strengthen their support for the new Iraqi Government and to do their part in the fight against ISIL, including aspects of the military campaign. Saudi Arabia will join the effort to help train and equip moderate Syrian opposition forces. And retired Marine General John Allen, who during the Iraq war worked with Sunnis in Iraq as they fought to reclaim their communities from terrorists, will serve as our Special Envoy to help build and coordinate our growing coalition.

Today, every American can be proud of our men and women in uniform who are serving in this effort. When our airstrikes helped break the siege of the Iraq town of Amerli, one Kurdish fighter on the ground said, "It would have been absolutely impossible without the American planes." One resident of that city said, "Thank you, America."

Today, we're showing the world the best of American leadership. We will protect our people. We will stand with partners who defend their countries and rally other nations to meet a common threat. And here at home, 13 years after our country was attacked, we continue to stand tall and proud, because we are Americans and we don't give in to fear. We carry on. And we will never waver in the defense of the country that we love.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 1:45 p.m. on September 12 in the State Dining Room at the White House for broadcast on September 13. In the address, the President referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization; and Gen. John R. Allen, USMC (Ret.), Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition To Counter ISIL. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 12, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on September 13.