

other country on Earth. Our Armed Forces, you talk to them—I had a chance this morning to just call some of the—our health service that is operating in Liberia, and the amount of hope and professionalism that they’ve brought has galvanized the entire country, and has built—they’ve built a platform effectively for other countries suddenly to start coming in. And we’re seeing real progress in fighting the disease in a country that just a month or a month and a half ago was desperate and had no hope.

So all that makes me optimistic. And my job over the next couple of years is to do some practical, concrete things—as much as possible with Congress; where it’s not possible with Congress, on my own—to show people why we should be confident and to give people a sense of progress and a sense of hope.

That doesn’t mean there aren’t going to be ongoing nagging problems that are stubborn and can’t be solved overnight. And probably the biggest one is the fact that despite economic growth, wages and income have still not gone up. And that’s a long-term trend that we’ve seen for 10, 20, 30 years. And it makes people worried about not just their own situation, but whether their kids are going to be doing better than they did, which is the essence of the American Dream. I think there are some concrete things we can do to make sure that

wages and incomes do go up. Minimum wage in those five States was a good start.

But I think more than anything what I want to communicate over these next 2 years is the promise and possibility of America. This is just an extraordinary country. And our democracy is messy. And we’re diverse, and we’re big. And there are times where you’re a politician and you’re disappointed with election results. But maybe I’m just getting older, I don’t know. It doesn’t make me mokey. It energizes me because it means that this democracy is working. And people in America were restless and impatient, and we want to get things done. And even when things are going good, we want them to do better. And that’s why this is the greatest country on Earth. That’s why I’m so privileged to have a chance to be President for the next couple years.

All right? Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President’s news conference began at 2:57 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid; House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi; 2012 Republican Presidential nominee W. Mitt Romney; and Stephanie F. Stacy, district judge, Lancaster County, NE. A reporter referred to former President William J. Clinton.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting an Emergency Appropriations Request for Fiscal Year 2015 To Implement a Comprehensive Ebola Containment, Preparedness, and Prevention Strategy *November 5, 2014*

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Today, I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed emergency appropriations request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 that includes \$6.18 billion to implement a comprehensive strategy to contain and end the Ebola outbreak at its source in Africa, enhance domestic preparedness, speed the procurement and testing of vaccines and therapeutics, and accelerate global capability to prevent the spread of future infectious diseases.

The request includes \$4.64 billion for immediate needs and \$1.54 billion in contingency funding to ensure that there are resources available to respond to the evolving epidemic both domestically and internationally. This funding structure was used by the Congress in 2009 for the emergency supplemental for the H1N1 pandemic influenza.

My foremost priority is to protect the health and safety of Americans, and this request supports all necessary steps to fortify our domestic health system and prevent any outbreaks at

home. Over the longer term, my Administration recognizes that the best way to prevent additional cases at home will be to contain and eliminate the epidemic at its source in Africa.

Specifically, the request includes resources for domestic hospital and State and local preparedness; resources to support training as well as the acquisition of appropriate protective equipment; medical and non-medical management of Ebola treatment units and community care centers; infection control; contact tracing; laboratory capacity; disease surveillance; emergency operation centers; education and outreach; burial teams; addressing food insecurity and other adverse impacts of the outbreak in affected areas; and testing and development of new vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.

The request also includes resources to strengthen global health security by reducing risks to Americans by enhancing the capacity of vulnerable countries to prevent disease outbreaks, detect them early, and swiftly respond before they become epidemics that threaten our national security. The Global Health Security Agenda will accelerate and expand interna-

tional capabilities to deter infectious disease threats like Ebola, by: standing up emergency operations centers; providing equipment and training needed to test patients and report data in real-time; providing safe and secure laboratory capacity; and developing a trained workforce to track and end outbreaks before they become epidemics. These are the same activities that are necessary to combat the spread of Ebola and reduce the potential for future outbreaks of infectious diseases that could follow a similarly devastating, costly, and destabilizing trajectory.

My Administration requests that the funding described above be designated as emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

I urge the Congress to act expeditiously in considering this important request, the details of which are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

Remarks on Presenting Posthumously the Medal of Honor to First Lieutenant Alonzo H. Cushing *November 6, 2014*

Please, everyone, have a seat. Well, on behalf of Michelle and myself, welcome to the White House. One hundred fifty-one years ago, as our country struggled for its survival, President Lincoln dedicated the battlefield at Gettysburg as “a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live.” Today the Nation that lived pauses to pay tribute to one of those who died there: to bestow the Medal of Honor, our highest military decoration, upon First Lieutenant Alonzo H. Cushing.

Now, typically, this medal must be awarded within a few years of the action. But sometimes, even the most extraordinary stories can get lost in the passage of time. So I want to thank the more than two dozen family mem-

bers of Lieutenant Cushing who are here, including his cousin, twice removed, Helen Loring Ensign, from Palm Desert, California, who will accept this medal. For this American family, this story isn’t some piece of obscure history, it is an integral part of who they are. And today our whole Nation shares their pride and celebrates what this story says about who we are.

This award would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of supporters who worked for decades to make this day a reality. And I want to especially acknowledge Margaret Zerwekh, who is a historian from Delafield, Wisconsin, where Lieutenant Cushing was born. And there’s Margaret back there. [*Laughter*] Good to see you, Margaret. Margaret is also