

So the one thing I want to urge everybody here is to feel the same urgency about this race—about Mark’s race, about all the Senate races, about the State treasurer’s race, about the Romanoff race—feel that same urgency as you feel about my race back in 2008. Because, ultimately, this is not about one person, it’s not about a handful of people; it’s about all of us. And we’ve got to be invested in this. And I know all of you are, and I appreciate you very, very much for that.

All right, let me take a couple of questions. We’re going to get the press out of here. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:02 p.m. at the Westin Denver Downtown hotel. In his remarks, he referred to former Secretary of the Interior Kenneth L. Salazar and his wife Esperanza “Hope” Salazar; Margaret L. Fox, wife, and Tess Udall, daughter, of Sen. Mark Udall; wage worker Alex Dooley, college student Elizabeth Cooper, small-business owners Carolyn Reed and her husband David Johnson, and teacher Leslie Gresham, who had all written letters to the President about issues affecting the middle class; and Gov. John W. Hickenlooper of Colorado. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Julián Castro as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

July 9, 2014

I applaud the bipartisan majority of Senators who today confirmed Julián Castro as our next Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Julián is a proven leader, a champion for safe, affordable housing and strong, sustainable neighborhoods. I know that together with the dedicated professionals at HUD, Julián will help build on the progress we’ve made battling back from

the great recession: rebuilding our housing market, reducing homelessness among veterans, and connecting neighborhoods with good schools and good jobs that help our citizens succeed. Julián has lived the American Dream in his own life, and I’m confident he will help Americans across our country seize their own piece of that dream for themselves and their children.

Statement on the Resignation of National Counterterrorism Center Director Matthew G. Olsen

July 9, 2014

Most Americans may not know Matt Olsen’s name, but every American is safer because of his service. As Director of the National Counterterrorism Center for the past 3 years, Matt and the dedicated professionals he has led at the NCTC have been absolutely critical to our success in disrupting terrorist cells, thwarting attacks, and protecting the American people from evolving threats at home and abroad. I’ve

relied on Matt’s wise judgment and counsel, and I am especially grateful for his work to ensure that our counterterrorism efforts remain consistent with the rule of law and our values as a nation. As he concludes 24 years of Federal service, I thank Matt for a distinguished career that has left our Nation more secure and even better prepared to meet the threats of our time.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014

July 9, 2014

I applaud the overwhelming majority of lawmakers from both parties who came together

on behalf of America’s workers to pass the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of