

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

2014. This bipartisan compromise will help workers, including workers with disabilities, access employment, education, job-driven training, and support services that give them the chance to advance their careers and secure the good jobs of the future. Today's vote helps ensure that our workers can earn the skills employers are looking for right now and that

American businesses have the talent pool it takes to compete and win in our global economy. I look forward to signing it into law and hope Congress will continue to come together to make progress for America's working families.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 803.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters in Dallas, Texas July 9, 2014

The President. Hello, everybody. Just had a good meeting with Governor Perry, local officials, and faith leaders to talk about the steps that we have taken and that we need to take to address the humanitarian situation on the border. And I want to thank everybody who's been involved for taking the time to talk to me.

It's important to recognize two things. First, the surge of unaccompanied children and adults with children are arriving at one sector of the border, and that's the Río Grande Valley. Second, the issue is not that people are evading our enforcement officials. The issue is that we're apprehending them in large numbers. And we're working to make sure that we have sufficient facilities to detain, house, and process them appropriately, while attending to unaccompanied children with the care and compassion that they deserve while they're in our custody.

While we intend to do the right thing by these children, their parents need to know that this is an incredibly dangerous situation, and it is unlikely that their children will be able to stay. And I've asked parents across Central America not to put their children in harm's way in this fashion.

Now, right now there are more Border Patrol agents and surveillance resources on the ground than at any time in our history. And we deport almost 400,000 migrants each year. But as soon as it became clear that this year's migration to the border was different than in past years, I directed FEMA to coordinate our response at the border. Members of my Cabinet and my staff have made multiple trips to facilities there. And we're also addressing the root

of the problem. I sent Vice President Biden and Secretary Kerry and Secretary Johnson to meet with Central American leaders, as well as working with our international partners to go after smugglers who are putting their kids' lives at risk.

And earlier this week, Mexico announced a series of steps that they're going to take on their southern border to help stem the tide of these unaccompanied children.

Last week, I sent a letter to Congress asking them to increase penalties on smugglers and to give us flexibility to move migrants through the system faster.

Yesterday I asked Congress to fund these efforts. About half of the resources would go to border security, enforcement, and expedited removal of people who don't qualify for a humanitarian claim. About half would go to make sure we're treating children humanely. We'd also make investments to further tackle the root problems in Central America.

So right now Congress has the capacity to work with us, work with State officials, local officials, and faith-based groups and non-for-profits who are helping to care for these kids. Congress has the capacity to work with all parties concerned to directly address the situation. They've said they want to see a solution. The supplemental offers them the capacity to vote immediately to get it done.

Of course, in the long run, the best way to truly address this problem is for the House of Representatives to pass legislation fixing our broken immigration system, which, by the way, would include funding for additional thousands of Border Patrol agents, something that