

And I am going to need you to be right there with me. Do not get cynical. Hope is the better choice.

Thank you, Texas. Thank you, Austin. God bless you. God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:48 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre. In his remarks, he referred

to Houston, TX, resident Kinsey Button and her parents Tina and Mitchell Button; David Johnson, husband of Denver, CO, small-business owner Carolyn Reed; former President George W. Bush; and actors Mark Wahlberg and Anthony Estrella, who portrayed detectives in the film “The Departed.” He also referred to his mother-in-law Marian Robinson.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Shaun L.S. Donovan as Director of the Office of Management and Budget *July 10, 2014*

I am pleased that Republicans and Democrats in the Senate today confirmed Shaun Donovan as the next Director of the Office of Management and Budget. From his outstanding work at HUD helping to rebuild our housing market to his leadership in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, Shaun has played a crucial role in our efforts to battle back from the worst economic crisis of our lifetimes and expand op-

portunity for more Americans. While we have made significant strides by investing in areas that are helping to grow the economy, creating good jobs, and promoting more effective and efficient management in Government, Shaun knows there is more work to do, and today’s bipartisan vote ensures the dedicated professionals at OMB will have a proven, effective leader to build on the progress we’ve made.

The President’s Weekly Address *July 12, 2014*

Hi, everybody. This week, I spent some time in Colorado and Texas, talking with people about what’s going on in their lives.

One of them was Elizabeth Cooper, who will be a college junior this fall. She wrote to tell me something I hear often: how hard it is for middle class families like hers to afford college. And she shared something I know many of you feel when you wonder what’s going on in Washington. She said she feels “not significant enough to be addressed, not poor enough for people to worry [about], and not rich enough to be cared about.”

I ran for President to fight for Americans just like Elizabeth, people who work hard, do everything right, and just want a chance to build a decent life for themselves and their families.

And after the worst economic crisis in generations, our businesses have now created nearly 10 million new jobs over the past 52 months. The unemployment rate has fallen to

its lowest point since 2008. By almost every measure, our economy is better off than it was 5 years ago.

But while we’ve created more jobs at this point of the year than any year since 1999, too many families barely earn what they did in 1999. It’s harder to pay for college, save, or retire because people’s wages and incomes have not gone up. Nearly all the gains of the recovery are going to the very top and aren’t making a difference in your lives.

Now, I believe America does better when the middle class does better. And I’ve laid out an opportunity agenda to create jobs, train workers, educate our kids, and make sure hard work actually pays off. These are the things we should be doing to grow the middle class and to help folks work their way into the middle class. And it’s pretty uncontroversial stuff. I hope we can work together on it. And I’m always willing to compromise if folks have other