

Mar. 9 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2015

what we're going to focus on right now is actually seeing whether we can get a deal or not. And once we do, then we'll—if we do, then we'll be able to make the case to the American people, and I'm confident we'll be able to implement it.

All right. Thank you very much everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:12 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany; and President François Hollande of France. He also referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization.

Statement on the Wisconsin Legislature's Passage of Legislation To Prohibit Labor Unions From Collecting Mandatory Fees *March 9, 2015*

It's no coincidence that the rise of the middle class in America coincided in large part with the rise of unions: workers who organized together for higher wages, better working conditions, and the benefits and protections that most workers take for granted today. So it's inexcusable that, over the past several years, just when middle class families and workers need that kind of security the most, there's been a sustained, coordinated assault on unions led by powerful interests and their allies in government.

So I'm deeply disappointed that a new anti-worker law in Wisconsin will weaken, rather than strengthen, workers in the new economy.

Wisconsin is a State built by labor, with a proud proworker past. So even as its Governor claims victory over working Americans, I'd encourage him to try and score a victory for working Americans by taking meaningful action to raise their wages and offer them the security of paid leave. That's how you give hard-working middle class families a fair shot in the new economy, not by stripping their rights in the workplace, but by offering them all the tools they need to get ahead.

NOTE: The statement referred to Gov. Scott K. Walker of Wisconsin.

Remarks on Signing a Memorandum on a Student Aid Bill of Rights To Help Ensure Affordable Loan Repayment *March 10, 2015*

Well, this is an opportunity to get a head start on what we're going to be talking about down in Atlanta, Georgia. One of the things that's been uppermost on my mind is, how do we make sure that every young person in this country who is willing to put in the effort can afford to go to college? And as part of that overall process, we're going to be talking today about a Student Bill of Rights.

This is part of it. It's an executive action that we're able to take to streamline and improve the manner in which the Federal Government interacts with students when it comes to stu-

dent loans, and it will be part of a broader overview that I talk about while we're in Atlanta. All right?

[At this point, the President signed the memorandum.]

There you go. Thank you, everybody. Let's get on the plane. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:13 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The memorandum is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.