

Olympics, stocking shelves for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

So the love between this team and their community is mutual. I will say when you get a hundred thousand fans to show up to a practice—[laughter]—I think it's fair to say that your fans are a little crazy. [Laughter] But obviously it's working for them and it's working for this extraordinary team.

So, Coach Meyer, congratulations to you and the Ohio State University for your National Championship. Good luck this season coming up.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Michael Thomas, wide receiver, Ohio State University football team.

Remarks Honoring the 2014 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion April 21, 2015

Hello, everybody! Please have a seat. Welcome to the White House on this beautiful day. And congratulations to Kevin Harvick, the 2014 NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion. Hey! It is always wonderful to have the NASCAR family here. We've got huge fans in the White House, and we've got some big fans, including some Members of Congress who are here.

It's great to have Kevin's crew chief, Rodney Childers, who is here. We've also got Greg Zipadelli—almost messed it up there; it's like Obama, too many vowels—[laughter]—and the team from Stewart-Haas Racing. NASCAR's leadership is here as well. Brian France is here, and Mike Helton. Welcome back.

And even though the Budweiser Chevy got the White House parking pass this year, I am sure Tony Stewart doesn't mind adding another Owner's Championship to his collection. So congratulations to Tony.

I also want to offer my condolences to everybody in the NASCAR community on the passing of a legendary reporter and broadcaster, Steve Byrnes. And I know a lot of fans' thoughts and prayers today are with his wife Karen and his son Bryson.

We are here to celebrate, though, Kevin Harvick. This was an exciting year for the "Four Car." As the season started, Kevin had a new team, a new crew chief to adjust to. It usually takes a little time for a driver and a crew chief to find their groove, but Kevin and Rodney seemed to figure out each other in a hurry, sort of like when Joe Biden joined my team. [Laughter]

So they had an instant chemistry. And as Kevin can tell you, when you have a trusted

partner shouting world-class advice into your ear at every turn, you can't lose. [Laughter]

It wasn't long before Kevin and Rodney and the team behind Budweiser Chevy were firing on all cylinders. But the season was not without its ups and downs. By the second race in the season, Kevin had picked up his first checkered flag with Stewart-Haas. And then, came a tough stretch, the kind where most champion seasons are forged. There were blown tires, engine failures, cut oil lines, a slew of obstacles that held the "Four Car" from finishing any higher than 36th out of—in three out of four straight races.

But Kevin and Rodney stuck with it, and by the time the Chase rolled around, this team was ready. A win at Homestead capped a season where Kevin picked up five wins, led more laps than anybody on the grid, picking up his first Sprint Cup champion—Championship. And by the looks of it, with two quick wins and the points lead already in place, 2015 isn't shaping up to be too much different.

Kevin has also found the time to match his contributions on the track with his commitment to family and community away from racing. His wife DeLana and his son Keelan are constant presences on the track. And I know at one point, DeLana even had her own fire suit. I'm sure it looked better than it did on Kevin. And I'm sure that if Michelle decided we were going to start wearing matching outfits, it would be me who adapted to her style. [Laughter]

Together, Kevin and DeLana run the Kevin Harvick Foundation, which aims to help un-

derprivileged youth to excel both as students and as athletes. From helping his hometown Boys and Girls Club in Bakersfield, California, renovate a gym and a playground to supporting programming which prevents bullying and violence in his former high school, Kevin—like so many others across NASCAR—is working to make a difference.

So, Kevin, congratulations to you again for an outstanding season. The whole team at Stewart-Haas Racing, keep up the great work.

NASCAR, looking forward to seeing more excitement on the track.

Thank you so much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:53 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Greg Zipadelli, crew chief, and Tony Stewart, co-owner, Stewart-Haas Racing; and Brian France, chairman and chief executive officer, and Mike Helton, vice chairman, National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR), Inc.

Remarks on Congressional Passage of the Medicare Access and CHIP

Reauthorization Act of 2015

April 21, 2015

Hello, everybody. What a spectacular day! The Rose Garden is especially beautiful this time of year, and I thought what better place to have Members of Congress and members of the Cabinet and some outstanding advocacy groups come to celebrate something else that is gorgeous, and that is a bipartisan piece of legislation.

The main reason I'm here is to say thank you. I want to thank everybody who's here who helped to pass the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, otherwise known as the permanent doc fix. *[Laughter]* This law finally solves a serious problem. As all of you know, almost every year for the past 13 years, doctors who care for Medicare patients faced the possibility of an arbitrary cut in their pay. In 2010 alone, it happened five times, and Congress repeatedly scrambled to stop it from happening and patch it over. I remember being involved in a few of those patches myself. All of us said again and again, let's just try to fix this once and for all.

And this time, we finally did. No more temporary patches. I am really excited about it. I actually signed the bill into law last week just to make sure that America's doctors didn't get hit by any deep cuts, even if it was just for a day. And so I wanted to make sure we signed it, without the fanfare. But I figured we could all still enjoy each other's company, because we

did not just settle for fixing an old formula, we replaced it with a better one.

We're moving away from the old model, which incentivized more treatment over better treatment, something that costs a lot more money. From now on, we're going to compensate doctors based more on how well they help their patients get healthy and stay healthy. And that's a smarter approach, and it's going to get better results for patients. And I'm confident it's also going to be more cost effective.

I shouldn't say this with John Boehner here—*[laughter]*—but that's one way that this legislation builds on the Affordable Care Act. *[Laughter]* But let's put that aside for a second. *[Laughter]*

This legislation also extends funding for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs, which—*[applause]*. Yay! Which helps connect tens of thousands of new moms to nurses and social workers and critical support that they need for the first months after a child's birth. That means it's a big victory for working families and a big victory for our children.

It extends funding for community health centers, which is a vital resource for families and communities nationwide. And finally, it funds the Children's Health Insurance Program, which ensures millions of kids get the care that they need to grow up healthy and strong. And there's nothing more important than that.