

## Statement on House of Representatives Action on Trade Promotion Authority and Trade Adjustment Assistance Legislation *June 12, 2015*

Today Republicans and Democrats in the House of Representatives voted to help the United States negotiate and enforce strong, high-standard trade deals that are good for American workers and good for American businesses. That's a good thing. My top priority as President is to grow the economy and open new avenues of opportunity for hard-working Americans. And today's new economy demands we encourage new sources of growth and job creation so that America remains vital, dynamic, and on the cutting edge. That's what smart new trade agreements can do, agreements for fair and free trade that level the playing field for our workers, open new markets for our businesses, and hold other countries to the kinds of high standards that Americans are proud to hold ourselves to here at home. These kinds of agreements reflect the realities of a 21st-century economy. These kinds of agreements make sure that the global economy's rules aren't written by countries like China, they're written by the United States of America. And to stand in their way is to do nothing but preserve the long-term status quo for American workers and make it even harder for them to succeed.

Trade promotion authority (TPA) will expand workers' rights, it will protect the environment, it will promote a free and open Internet, and it will support robust new measures to

crack down on countries that break the rules, the same way we've brought dozens of new trade cases over the past 6 years and won again and again. But as I've said before, new trade agreements should go hand in hand with support to American workers who've been harmed by trade in the past. Trade adjustment assistance (TAA) is an initiative that would give roughly 100,000 American workers access to vital support each year. But it's currently scheduled to expire soon. Republicans and Democrats in the Senate have renewed it. Republicans and Democrats in the House failed to renew it today, and that inaction will directly hurt about 100,000 workers and their communities annually if those Members of Congress don't reconsider. I urge the House to pass TAA without delay so that more middle class workers can earn the chance to participate and succeed in our global economy.

I thank the bipartisan group of Representatives who came together on behalf of America's workers, our businesses, and our economy. And I urge the House of Representatives to pass TAA as soon as possible so I can sign them both and give our workers and businesses even more wind at their backs to do what they do best: imagine, invent, build, and sell goods made in America to the rest of the world.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 1314.

## The President's Weekly Address *June 13, 2015*

Hi, everybody. My top priority as President is to grow the economy and help more hard-working Americans get ahead. And after the worst economic crisis in our lifetimes, our businesses have now created 12.6 million new jobs over the past 63 months.

That's a record streak of job creation. And it's come as we've been working to reform our schools, revitalize manufacturing and the auto

industry, revamp our job training programs, and rework our health care system, covering more than 16 million uninsured Americans so far.

We've done all of this to rebuild our economy on a new foundation, a foundation for growth that benefits not only us, but our kids and their kids. Because we do live in a new economy. And we've got to adapt to make sure

America leads the way in this new century, just like we did in the last.

Part of that means sparking new sources of growth and job creation that keep us on the cutting edge. And one big way to do that is through smart new trade agreements that level the playing field for our workers, open new markets for our businesses, and hold other countries to the kinds of high standards that Americans are proud to hold ourselves to here at home.

Simply put, America has to write the rules of the 21st-century economy in a way that benefits American workers. If we don't, countries like China will write those rules in a way that benefits their workers.

Now, on Friday, Republicans and Democrats in the House of Representatives voted to help the United States negotiate new trade deals that are both free and fair, deals that expand opportunity for our workers and our businesses alike. And that's good. These kinds of trade deals say no to a race for the bottom, for lower wages and working conditions. They're about starting a race to the top, for higher wages and better working conditions, stronger environmental protections, and a smarter way to crack down on countries that break the rules of the global economy.

But that's not all we should be doing for our workers. Right now something called trade adjustment assistance provides vital support, like job training and community college education, to tens of thousands of American workers each year who were hurt by past trade deals, the kind that we're not going to repeat again. Republicans and Democrats in the Senate have

voted to renew this initiative, but so far, the House of Representatives has chosen to let it expire in just a few months, leaving as many as 100,000 American workers on their own. For the sake of those workers, their families, and their communities, I urge those Members of Congress who voted against trade adjustment assistance to reconsider and stand up for American workers.

Because these smart new trade deals aren't just about growing our economy and supporting good new American jobs, it's about the kind of country we want to build for our kids and our grandkids. And if I did not think that smart new trade deals were the right thing to do for working families, I wouldn't be fighting for it.

This is the right thing to do. Trade that's fair and free and smart will grow opportunity for our middle class. It will help us restore the dream we share and make sure that every American who works hard has a chance to get ahead. That's a cause worth fighting for, today and every day I have the honor of serving as your President.

Thanks, everybody, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 3:55 p.m. on June 12 in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House for broadcast on June 13. In the address, the President referred to H.R. 1314. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 12, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on June 13.

## Remarks at the White House Mentorship and Leadership Program Graduation Ceremony

June 15, 2015

Hello, everybody. Everybody, please, please, have a seat, have a seat. Well, I couldn't tell—I couldn't let these young men leave without having a chance to say goodbye.

Over the past year, I've had a chance to spend some time with these outstanding young

men. I crashed their résumé workshop in the Roosevelt Room. We had lunch in the Diplomatic Room, and most of us didn't spill too much stuff on our ties. [Laughter] I showed them which fork to use. [Laughter] They showed me a thing or two on the basketball