

where we could make the investments we need to stay strong, militarily and economically.

So we've got challenges. But just think about how we've bounced back: from 9/11, from the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. America is the strongest, the most prosperous, and the most diverse country on Earth. And the 20th—21st century is being shaped by our ideas of the Internet and of international trade and free markets. And the reason for all of that is because of our people.

Sometimes, we hear about all the bad stuff that's going on, especially during political season. But America is strong. And it's strong because of all of you. And I never want you to forget that. You should be very proud of what you do and very proud of the people that you rep-

resent in uniform every single day, because this country is full of good, generous, hard-working people, and they rely on you, and they are grateful to you.

All right? Tell your families I said hi back home. All right? Thank you, everybody.

T. Sgt. Parry. Ladies and gentlemen, our Commander in Chief.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:53 p.m. in Studio 1 of Defense Media Activity. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia; and Jill T. Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden. He also referred to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action To Prevent Iran From Obtaining a Nuclear Weapon *September 11, 2015*

Today's vote in the House of Representatives is the latest indication that the more Members have studied the historic deal that will prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, the more they have come out in support of it. As we conclude the most consequential national security debate since the decision to invade Iraq, I am gratified that the lawmakers, led by Democratic Leader Pelosi, who have taken care to

judge the deal on the merits are joining our allies and partners around the world in taking steps that will allow for the implementation of this long-term, comprehensive deal. Now, we must turn to the critical work of implementing and verifying this deal so that Iran cannot pursue a nuclear weapon. In doing so, we'll write the latest chapter of American leadership in the pursuit of a safer, more hopeful world.

The President's Weekly Address *September 12, 2015*

Hi, everybody. Next week marks 7 years since a financial crisis on Wall Street that would usher in some hard years for working families on Main Street. Soon after that, I took office. And we set out to rebuild our economy on a new foundation for growth and prosperity by investing in things that grow our middle class: things like jobs, health care, and education.

Today, our businesses have created more than 13 million new jobs over the last 5½ years. The unemployment rate is the lowest it's been in more than 7 years. Another 16 million

Americans have gained health insurance. Our high school graduate rate is the highest it's ever been, and more people are graduating from college than ever before. We are coming back and stronger.

Still, in an economy that's increasingly based on knowledge and innovation, some higher education is the surest ticket to the middle class. By the end of this decade, two in three job openings will require some higher education. And that's one reason why a degree from a 2-year college will earn you \$10,000 more each year than someone who only finished high

school. One study showed that a degree from a 4-year university earns you \$1 million more over the course of a lifetime.

The country with the best educated workforce in the world is going to win the 21st-century economy. I want that to be America. But as college costs and student debt keep rising, the choices that Americans make when searching for and selecting a college have never been more important. That's why everyone should be able to find clear, reliable, open data on college affordability and value, like whether they're likely to graduate, find good jobs, and pay off their loans. Right now, however, many existing college rankings reward schools for spending more money and rejecting more students at a time when America needs our colleges to focus on affordability and supporting all students who enroll. That doesn't make sense, and it has to change.

So today my administration is launching a new College Scorecard, designed with input from those who will use it the most: students, families, and counselors. Americans will now have access to reliable data on every institution of higher education. You'll be able to see how much each school's graduates earn, how much debt they graduate with, and what percentage of a school's students can pay back their loans, which will help all of us see which schools do the best job of preparing America for success. And to reach more folks, we're working with

partners in the academic, nonprofit, and private sectors that will help families use this new data to navigate the complicated college process and make informed decisions.

The status quo serves some colleges and the companies that rank them just fine. But it doesn't serve always our students well, and that doesn't serve any of us well. There are colleges dedicated to helping students of all backgrounds learn without saddling them with debt. We should hold everybody to that standard. Our economic future depends on it.

Now, this work is just beginning. In the coming weeks and months, we'll continue to improve the Scorecard based on what we learn from students, parents, counselors, and colleges themselves. The goal is to help everybody who's willing to work for a higher education search for and select a college that fits their goals. Together, we can make sure that every student has the chance to get a great education and achieve their full potential.

Thanks, everybody. And have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 8:55 a.m. on September 11 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on September 12. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 11, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on September 12.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at a Town Hall Meeting at North High School in Des Moines, Iowa September 14, 2015

The President. Everybody, give it up for Russshaun! Hello, Iowa! Well, it is good to be back in Iowa. I was missing you guys. Go Polar Bears! It is great to be back in Des Moines. You know, I landed at the airport and saw the Hampton Inn there that I—I must have stayed there, like, a hundred days. [Laughter] I'm sure I've got some points or something. I could get a couple free nights at the Hampton Inn. [Laughter]

Everybody, have a seat. Have a seat. Relax. And I know—

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. [Laughter] I know it's September, so I know you guys are all about to be flooded with ads and calls from a bunch of folks who want this job. [Laughter] I just can't imagine what kind of person would put themselves through something like this. [Laughter] Although, I noticed—I didn't know Russshaun was on the ballot. During the introduction, he was all, like, "the next President of the United States."