

struggle to rise out of their status as second-class citizens. They are denied opportunities for full economic and political participation. Some are forced to marry and have children when they are still children themselves, while abusive practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting, still persist in too many places. Moreover, secondary education—arguably the most powerful tool for helping girls escape cycles of poverty and abuse and take control of their lives—remains beyond the reach of tens of millions of girls around the world.

That is why I am proud that my administration launched the “Let Girls Learn” initiative, which is already helping adolescent girls around the world to surmount the barriers that

stand between them and a quality education. It is also why I am pleased to announce that, in the coming days, Secretary of State John Kerry will be releasing the U.S. Global Strategy To Empower Adolescent Girls, which lays out a whole-of-Government approach to provide the next generation of women the tools they need to pursue their aspirations.

We know that when we invest in women and girls, we are not only helping them, we are helping the entire planet. A future in which all women and girls around the world are allowed to rise and achieve their full potential will be a brighter, more peaceful, and more prosperous future for us all.

## Statement on the Vermont Legislature’s Passage of Legislation Requiring Employers To Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees

March 9, 2016

I commend Governor Peter Shumlin and the State of Vermont for taking action to provide paid sick leave for Vermont’s working families. This action means thousands of families will no longer have to choose between losing income and taking care of a sick child. It’s a choice no one should have to make. So I’m once again calling on Congress to help us catch

up with other advanced nations and provide this basic security to all Americans. Until Congress acts, I urge other States to follow Vermont’s lead. And I’ll continue to do everything I can as President to support working families, because it’s the right thing to do to give everyone a fair shot to get ahead.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

March 9, 2016

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared on

March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2016.

On July 14, 2015, the P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), the European Union, and Iran reached a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to ensure that Iran’s nuclear program is and will remain exclusively peaceful. January 16, 2016, marked Implementation Day under the JCPOA, when the International Atomic Energy Agency issued a report verifying that Iran had completed key nuclear-related steps as specified in the JCPOA, and the