

ter] And I—and so I’ve got a big stake in this. And I’m going to make sure that I can do everything I can to move this in a positive direction so that, out of some heartbreak and tragedy, we can look back 5 years from now, 10 years from now, 15 years from now, and say, you know what, we keep—we kept getting better, and police officers are honored, their communities are supporting them, they are safer, and those communities truly recognize that they are being served and protected by the men and women in blue.

So thank you very much, everybody. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:51 p.m. in the South Court Auditorium of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Tonja Garafola, wife of East Baton Rouge Sheriff’s Deputy Brad Garafola, who was killed in the shooting in Baton Rouge, LA, on July 17; and Dechia Gerald and Trenisha Jackson, respective wives of Baton Rouge Police Department officers Matthew Gerald and Montrell Jackson, who were also killed in the July 17 shooting.

Statement on Signing the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 *July 22, 2016*

Today I signed S.524, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 into law. This legislation includes some modest steps to address the opioid epidemic. Given the scope of this crisis, some action is better than none.

However, I am deeply disappointed that Republicans failed to provide any real resources for those seeking addiction treatment to get the care that they need. In fact, they blocked efforts by Democrats to include \$920 million in treatment funding.

Every day, 78 Americans die from opioid overdoses. I have heard from too many families across the country whose lives have been shattered by this epidemic, including a mom from Ohio who recently wrote: “There are not near enough facilities in this area to handle the

amount of care that is needed. . . . We need help.”

My administration has been doing everything we can to increase access to treatment, and I’m going to continue fighting to secure the funding families desperately need. In recent days, the law enforcement community, advocates, physicians, and elected officials from both sides of the aisle have also joined in this call. Now, it’s up to Republicans to finish the job and provide adequate funding to deal with this public health crisis. That’s what the American people deserve.

NOTE: S. 524, approved July 22, was assigned Public Law No. 114–198.

Statement on Signing the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 *July 22, 2016*

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 4875, the “United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016,” which will create a United States Semiquincentennial Commission (Commission) with the responsibility to provide for the observance and commemoration, in 2026, of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. It is altogether fitting and proper that this historic milestone

be commemorated. The Act provides that the Commission will include officials who are members of the House and Senate appointed by congressional leaders, private citizens appointed by congressional leaders, and nonvoting ex officio members from the executive branch. I wholeheartedly welcome the participation of Members of Congress and private citizens in the activities of the Commission. In

accord with President Reagan's Signing Statement for similar commemorative legislation in 1983, I understand, and my Administration has so advised the Congress, that because the Commission includes Members of Congress and congressional appointees, the Commission may provide advice and recommendations, and may participate in ceremonial activities, but may not participate in matters involving the execution of the laws, in light of the separation of

powers and the Appointments and Ineligibility Clauses of the Constitution.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
July 22, 2016.

NOTE: H.R. 4875, approved July 22, was assigned Public Law No. 114–196.

Message to the House of Representatives Returning Without Approval the Presidential Allowance Modernization Act of 2016 July 22, 2016

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 1777, the "Presidential Allowance Modernization Act of 2016," which would amend the Former Presidents Act of 1958.

I agree with H.R. 1777's goal of reforming the pensions and allowances provided to former Presidents so as to reduce unnecessary costs to taxpayers. But if implemented as drafted, the bill would have unintended consequences. It would impose onerous and unreasonable burdens on the offices of former Presidents, including by requiring the General Services Administration to immediately terminate salaries and benefits of office employees and to remove furnishings and equipment from offices. It would withdraw the General Services Ad-

ministration's ability to administer leases and negatively impact operations, with unanticipated implications for the protection and security of former Presidents.

My Administration will work with the authors of the bill and other leaders in the Congress, in consultation with the offices of former Presidents, to explore the best ways to achieve these goals going forward. If the Congress returns the bill having appropriately addressed these concerns, I will sign it. For now, I must veto the bill.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
July 22, 2016.

The President's Weekly Address July 23, 2016

The President. Hi, everybody. I'm here with Senator Elizabeth Warren, one of our strongest advocates for families and consumers like you. And today we want to talk to you about some of the actions we've taken to protect everything you've worked so hard to build.

Eight years ago, after some big banks made irresponsible and risky bets with your money, we almost slipped into another Great Depression. While the recklessness started on Wall Street, it didn't take long before it led to real

pain for folks on Main Street. It would cost millions of our fellow Americans their jobs, homes, and savings.

Senator Elizabeth A. Warren. The financial crisis wasn't an unstoppable act of nature. The whole thing could have been avoided, but we didn't have rules in place to stop Wall Street from taking enormous risks that threatened the whole economy. We didn't have strong protections to keep consumers from being cheated by tricks and traps on financial contracts.