

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