

And today, thanks to DACA, Diego's the first in his family to graduate from college. And now he's a fellow here at CHCI. And one day he hopes to go into government himself and make things better not just for Latino kids like him, but for every single person in the United States.

It's young people like that, that keep me going: folks who prove that immigrants aren't somehow changing the American character, immigrants are the American character. That's who we are. It's the DREAMers full of optimism. The moms and dads working long hours to give their kids a better shot. The entrepreneurs who came here to start new businesses and put Americans to work. And the teachers and the nurses and the lawyers who wake up at the crack of dawn to get ahead. And the folks who clean up after us. And the folks who care for our grandparents. The folks who are so proud of this country that they carry a pocket Constitution in their breast pocket.

That's the America I know. That's the America I believe in more strongly than ever. So thank you for picking me up every step of the way. Thank you for making this country great. We've got more work to do. But we will keep on making progress and create a brighter future for everybody in this country we love. *Si, se puede*. Thank you.

Thank you, CHCI. God bless you. God bless the United States of America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:55 p.m. in Hall B at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, in her capacity as first vice-chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; former Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska; Reps. Ruben Hinojosa and Nydia M. Velázquez; Jorge and Paula Quiñones, parents of Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute New York Life Public Policy Fellow Diego Quiñones; and former Rep. Charles A. Gonzalez, in his former capacity as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Business, Government, and National Security Leaders To Discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership and an Exchange With Reporters

September 16, 2016

The President. I am really pleased to be joined by this outstanding, bipartisan group to reemphasize how important it is for us to be out there and set the rules for the global economy.

As all of you know, I just returned from my 11th trip to Asia. This is the most populous, fastest growing part of the world. It is an area where we have the potential to sell American goods, promote American business, and help American workers, because we know that export industries tend to pay higher wages and are oftentimes some of the most successful companies in the world. And precisely because 95 percent of our markets are outside of the United States, and because for us to succeed in this increasingly integrated economy, we've got to make sure that we've got a level playing field

and that American workers and American businesses are able to compete fairly.

What we've done over the last several years is negotiate what we call the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, which is a high-standard trade agreement that makes other countries lower their tariff barriers so that there aren't taxes on U.S. goods that are sold there, that gets other countries to raise their labor standards so they're not undercutting U.S. workers, that gets other countries to raise environmental standards so that as we do our part to conserve the planet, other countries are doing their fair share. And after a lot of negotiations, we've got what is the most progressive, effective trade deal that we've ever seen.

And this bipartisan group made up of business leaders, mayors and Governors, Republicans and

Democrats, national security leaders and military leaders, the reason they're here is because they know this is important for our economy and they know that this is important for our national security and our standing in the world.

Right now China is pushing hard to create their own trading regime out in Asia. And I promise you that China is not going to be setting up a bunch of rules that are going to be to the advantage of American companies and American businesses. If we are not in there and making sure that fair trade is established in the Asia market, we're going to be cut out.

And I know that politics these days tends to look at trade as something that is negative. But if you talk to the farmers and the ranchers and the manufacturers and the service industries that are dependent on us selling American exports around the world, they will tell you we've got to get this done.

So I just want to say thank you to this outstanding group. We're going to spend some time strategizing about how we can get the message out. It's frustrating, I think sometimes, that there's so much misinformation floating around on this. But the good news is, is that people whose business it is to make sure that America has a strong position in the world and that our economy is improving understand that this needs to get done. We've got over a hundred mayors who signed up to make sure that this gets done. We've got Democratic and Republican Governors who are going to push to make sure that this gets done. We've got chambers of commerce and business leaders who are going to work really hard to make sure that people have the right information.

But if you're frustrated about rules of trade that disadvantage America, if you're frustrated about jobs being shipped overseas and other countries selling goods into our country freely when we can't sell our stuff into other countries freely, then you want to get this thing passed. You want to get this thing done.

And I thought it was important for people, even though we're in an election season, to know that this is not something I'm letting up

on. I don't have any more elections to run, and the reason that I'm pushing this so hard is because I know and other countries know and China know that if we get this done, advantage America. And if we don't, then we're going to be disadvantaged for a long time to come.

And it's the right thing to do. And even if the politics of it sometimes are tough, we're going to keep on making sure that we position ourselves as well as we can to be able to compete not just next year or 5 years from now, but 20 and 30 years from now.

All right? Thank you very much, everybody.

The President's Birthplace/2016 Presidential Election

Q. Mr. President, Donald Trump is now finally acknowledging that, yes, you were born in America. Your reaction?

The President. I, Jonathan [Jonathan Karl, ABC News], have no reaction. And I'm shocked that a question like that would come up at a time when we've got so many other things to do. Well, I'm not that shocked, actually. [Laughter] It's fairly typical. We've got other business to attend to. I was pretty confident about where I was born. I think most people were as well. And my hope would be that the Presidential election reflects more serious issues than that.

All right? Thank you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Meeting participants included former Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York City; Mayor Kasim Reed of Atlanta, GA; Gov. John R. Kasich of Ohio; Gov. John Bel Edwards of Louisiana; former Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr.; Virginia M. Rometty, president and chief executive officer, IBM; and former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Adm. James G. Stavridis, USN. A reporter referred to Republican Presidential nominee Donald J. Trump.

The President's Weekly Address September 17, 2016

Hi, everybody. I've delivered a few hundred of these weekly addresses over the years, and you may have noticed a theme that pops up pretty often: The Republicans who run this Congress aren't doing their jobs. And guess what? Congress recently returned from a 7-week vacation, and they've only got 2 weeks left until their next one. But there's a lot of business they need to get done first.

First, even as we're seeing more and more Zika cases inside the United States, they've refused to fund our efforts to protect women and children by fighting Zika in a serious way.

Second, they still need to provide resources to help the people of Louisiana recover from last month's terrible floods and to help communities like Flint recover from their own challenges.

Third, they have made Merrick Garland, a Supreme Court nominee with more Federal judicial experience than any other in history, wait longer than any other in history for the simple courtesy of a hearing, let alone a vote, all because they want their nominee for President to fill that seat.

And there are plenty other bipartisan priorities they should finish this year as well: passing criminal justice reform; attacking the opioids epidemic; funding Joe Biden's Cancer Moonshot; finishing a transpacific trade agreement that will support American jobs and boost American wages; and passing a budget that will make sure all of America's priorities are fund-

ed without resorting to shutdown threats and last-minute gimmicks. And none of this list even includes some other big priorities that should get done. It's been almost a decade, for example, since Congress voted to raise the minimum wage.

None of these things should be controversial. All of it is within our reach. This is America; we can do anything. We just need a Congress that works as hard as you do. At the very least, we should expect that they should do their jobs and protect us from disease, help us recover from disaster, keep the Supreme Court above politics, and help our businesses grow and hire.

So, if any of these priorities matter to you, let your Congressperson know. And if they still refuse to do their jobs, well, you know what to do in November. Our Government only works as well as the people we elect. And that's entirely up to you.

Thanks, everybody, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 5:05 p.m. on September 16 in the Blue Room at the White House for broadcast on September 17. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 16, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on September 17. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Phoenix Awards Dinner September 17, 2016

The President. Hello, CBC! Thank you, Don, for the great work you are doing and that kind introduction.

Audience member. We love you!

The President. I love you too.

I want to thank the CBC Foundation, Chairman Butterfield, members of the Congressio-

nal Black Caucus, and the whole CBC family. It's always good to be with the "Conscience of Congress." I also want to congratulate tonight's honorees, beginning with Charlie Rangel, a founding member of the CBC, an outstanding public servant who as we just talked about, we'll be riding off into the sunset together;