

because discrimination against preexisting conditions is now illegal. And since 2010, we've seen the slowest health care price growth in 50 years.

Whether or not you get insurance through the Affordable Care Act, that's the health care system as we know it now. Because our goal wasn't just to make sure more people have coverage, it was to make sure more people have better coverage. That's why we want to build on the progress we've made, and I've put forth a number of ideas for how to improve the Affordable Care Act.

Now, Republicans in Congress want to repeal the whole thing and start from scratch, but trying to undo some of it could undo all of it. All those consumer protections—whether you get your health insurance from Obamacare or Medicare or Medicaid or on the job—could go right out the window. So any partisan talk you hear about repealing or replacing the Affordable Care Act should be judged by whether they keep all those improvements that benefit you and your family right now.

For example, one new study shows that if Congress repeals Obamacare as they've pro-

posed, nearly 30 million Americans would lose their coverage—30 million. Four in five of them would come from working families. More than 9 million Americans who would receive tax credits to keep insurance affordable would no longer receive that help. That's unacceptable.

We can work together to make the system even better, and one of the best ways to do that is make sure that you're in it. So remember: Sign up on [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) by this Thursday, and your health insurance will be there for you when you wake up on January 1.

Thanks everybody, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 4:40 p.m. on December 9 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on December 10. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 9, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on December 10. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Regarding Designation of Emergency Funding Under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as Amended

*December 10, 2016*

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

In accordance with section 4(a) of the Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017 (the "Act"), I hereby designate as emergency requirements all funding so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Designating Funds for Global Counterterrorism and Overseas Contingency Operations December 10, 2016

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Mr. President:)

In accordance with section 4(b) of the Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017 (the “Act”), I hereby designate for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism all funding including contributions from foreign governments so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate.

## Remarks on Signing the 21st Century Cures Act December 13, 2016

Vice President Joe Biden. Mr. President—

[At this point, Vice President Biden turned to former State Sen. David Grubb of West Virginia, who had introduced the President and Vice President Biden, and his wife Katherine, both of whom remained on the stage. The Grubbs’ daughter Jessica died of a drug overdose on March 2. Vice President Biden addressed them as follows.]

Vice President Biden. It’s a lousy club, but I’m proud of you. We’re all proud of you.

[Vice President Biden resumed his formal remarks as follows.]

Vice President Biden. Mr. President, my Senate colleagues, all the Members of Congress who are here and worked so hard to get this bill done today, just let me say that last week I had the honor of presiding, probably for the last time in the United States Senate, over the Senate as, Mr. President, they moved to pass the 21st Century Cures Act. And as I said, it’s probably one of the last times that I will get to preside over the Senate and maybe one of the most important moments in my career.

On behalf of the administration, let me thank all the bipartisan leadership here. I want to make this clear: This bill would have never occurred, not for some of the—without the leading voices, Republican voices, in the House and the Senate, as well as Democrats. It would have never, ever occurred. And I hope this bodes well for what will come next year, that we’re back working together. This was—this is a consequential piece of legislation that was extremely important, it cost a lot of money, and it was done in the lame duck session.

Without the true bipartisan support, this piece of legislation would have never occurred, and it’s going to help millions of people—millions of people. As the President and I talk—he’ll talk about this in greater detail in a moment—the 21st Century Cures Act is going to harness America’s best minds—science, medicine, and technology—to tackle some of our biggest and most complex health challenges of today.

The bill commits \$6.3 billion over 7 years, dealing with opioid addiction, precision medicine and the BRAIN Initiative and mental illness, Alzheimer’s disease and so much more. But, Mr. President, if you’ll excuse—as we both have just done—a point of personal