

it based on sort of an ideological concern about expansion of the state and sort of taxes on wealthier people that are helping people who don't have as much money. And I respect their role in the democracy. They've been really fighting hard. Well, folks here got to fight just as hard.

My final piece of advice would be to the news media, which is, we—generally speaking, when Obamacare has worked well, it wasn't attributed to Obamacare, and when there were problems, they got front-page headlines. And I think that, hopefully, now is a time where people can be a little—this doesn't apply to Vox, by the way. [Laughter] But I think it would be a good time for people to be a little more measured and take a look at what are the facts of this thing. Because the stakes are high.

Even on this whole premium issue—increase issue that happened right before the election, it is true, as I said, that insurers adjusted and hiked premiums. But I kept on trying to explain, number one, if you're getting a tax subsidy, this wasn't going to affect your out-of-pocket costs because the tax credit would just go up. But nobody kind of heard that.

And number two, these increases in premiums only applied to people who were buying health insurance on the exchanges. In fact, 85 percent of the people don't get health insur-

ance through Obamacare. And for you, your health care premiums actually have gone up a lot less since Obamacare was passed than they did before Obamacare was passed. The average family has probably saved about \$3,000 in lower health care premiums than if you had seen those same health care cost trends increased at the pace that they did before the law was passed. But I didn't see a lot of headlines about that, but—which I understand, I mean because it's not controversial enough, or it's a little bit too complicated to get in a soundbite.

So that's why the individual voice is so important. And that's why I'm so appreciative of journalists who actually know what they're talking about. Thank you.

*Mr. Klein.* Thank you, Mr. President.

*The President.* All right. Thanks. Appreciate it.

*Ms. Kliff.* Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. in the Garden Room at the Blair House. In his remarks, he referred to former President George W. Bush; Sen. Bernard Sanders, in his former capacity as a Democratic Presidential candidate; 2012 Republican Presidential nominee W. Mitt Romney; former Gov. Steven L. Beshear and Gov. Matthew G. Bevin of Kentucky; and Medina, OH, resident and health care reform advocate Natoma A. Canfield.

## Statement on the Observance of Orthodox Christmas January 6, 2017

Michelle and I wish a joyful Christmas to Orthodox Christians in the United States and around the world. During this sacred season, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and reflect on the commandment that we love one another as He has loved us. We are grateful for the many ways in which Orthodox Christians have shown such love to their neighbors and strengthened both religious and civic bonds. As worship services take place in

churches across the Nation and around the world, we reaffirm our commitment to protect the universal and inalienable right of all people to practice their faith and stand in solidarity with communities and congregations that have been persecuted and subjected to violent attacks. As we enter this new year, we join our Orthodox brothers and sisters in praying and working for peace and justice.

## The President's Weekly Address January 7, 2017

Since the days of George Washington, Presidents have delivered some form of final message while in office, a Farewell Address to the American people. On Tuesday night, in Chicago, I'll deliver mine. I chose Chicago not only because it's my hometown, where I met my wife and we started a family, but also because it's really where my career in public service began.

The running thread through my career has been the notion that when ordinary people get involved and get engaged and come together in collective effort, things change for the better. That's the belief at the heart of this precious American experiment in self-government. It's what gives work and purpose to each new generation.

It's easy to lose sight of that truth in the day-to-day back and forth of Washington or our minute-to-minute news cycles. But remember that America is a story told over a longer time horizon, in fits and starts, punctuated at times by hardship, but ultimately written by generations of citizens who've somehow worked together, without fanfare, to form a more perfect Union.

Over the past 8 years, we've added our own new chapter to that story. Together, we've turned an economy that was shrinking and losing jobs into one that's growing and creating jobs, with poverty falling, incomes rising, and wages that have jumped faster over the past few years than at any time in the past four decades.

Together, we've achieved what eluded politicians of both parties for a century: We've

moved 20 million more Americans from uninsured to insured, ending the days of discrimination against up to half of Americans who have a preexisting condition, and secured new rights and protections for everybody with health insurance.

Together, we've brought home most of our brave troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, took bin Laden and thousands of other terrorists off the battlefield for good. We've opened a new chapter with the people of Cuba, shut down Iran's nuclear weapons program without firing a single shot, and brought the world together around a climate agreement that could save this planet for future generations.

By these measures and many more, we have made America a better, stronger place for the generation that follows ours. We've run our leg in a long journey of progress, knowing that our work is and will always be unfinished. And that's the imperative of citizenship: the idea that with hard work, people who love their country can change it. That will be the focus of my farewell to you this Tuesday, and I hope you'll tune in.

Thanks, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 3:20 p.m. on January 5 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on January 7. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 6, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on January 7. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Farewell Address to the Nation From Chicago, Illinois January 10, 2017

*The President.* Hello, Chicago! It's good to be home! Thank you. Thank you, everybody. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. It's good to be home. Thanks. All right, everybody sit down. We're on live TV here. I've got to

move. Come on. [*Laughter*] I—you can tell that I'm a lame duck, because nobody's following instructions. [*Laughter*] Everybody, have a seat.

My fellow Americans, Michelle and I have been so touched by all the well wishes that