

We must carry this promise forward. My Administration has a Civil Rights Division that is once again prosecuting civil rights violations and employment discrimination. We finally strengthened our laws to protect against crimes driven by hate. This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are. We are going to crack down on violations of equal pay laws—so that women get equal pay for an equal day's work. And we should continue the work of fixing our broken immigration system—to secure our borders and enforce our laws so that everyone plays by the rules.

In the end, it is our ideals, our values that built America—values that allowed us to forge a Nation made up of immigrants from every corner of the globe; values that drive our citizens still. Every day, they meet their responsibilities to their families and their employers. Time and again, they lend a hand to their neighbors and give back to their country. They take pride in their labor, and are generous in spirit. These aren't Republican values or Democratic values they're living by; business values or labor values. They are American values.

Unfortunately, too many of our citizens have lost faith that our biggest institutions—our corporations, our media, and yes, our Government—still reflect these same values. Each of these institutions are full of honorable men and women doing important work for the country. But each time a CEO rewards himself for failure, or a banker puts the rest of us at risk for his own selfish gain, people's doubts grow. Each time lobbyists game the system or politicians tear each other down instead of lifting this country up, we lose faith. The more that TV pundits reduce serious debates into silly arguments, and big issues into sound bites, our citizens turn away.

No wonder there's so much cynicism out there. No wonder there's so much disappointment.

I campaigned on the promise of change—change we can believe in, the slogan went. And right now, I know there are many Americans who aren't sure if they still believe we can change.

But remember this—I never suggested that change would be easy. Democracy in a Nation of three hundred million people can be noisy and messy and complicated. And when you try to do big things and make big changes, it stirs passions and controversy. That's just how it is.

Of course, those of us in public office can respond to this reality by playing it safe and keeping our poll numbers high. We can avoid telling hard truths. We can kick hard problems down the road. We can do what's necessary to get through the next election instead of what's best for the next generation.

But I also know this: if people had made that decision 50 years ago or 100

years ago or 200 years ago, we wouldn't be here tonight. The only reason we are is because generations of Americans were unafraid to do what was hard; to do what was needed even when success was uncertain; to do what it took to keep the dream of this Nation alive for their children and grandchildren.

Our Administration has had some political setbacks this year, and some of them were deserved. But I wake up every day knowing that they are nothing compared to the setbacks that families all across this country have faced this year. And what keeps me going—what keeps me fighting—is that despite all these setbacks, that spirit of determination and optimism—that fundamental decency that has always been at the core of the American people—lives on.

It lives on in the struggling small business owner who wrote to me of his company, "None of us," he said, ". . . are willing to consider, even slightly, that we might fail."

It lives on in the woman who said that even though she and her neighbors have felt the pain of recession, "We are strong. We are resilient. We are American."

It lives on in the 8-year-old boy in Louisiana, who just sent me his allowance and asked if I would give it to the people of Haiti. And it lives on in all the Americans who've dropped everything to go some place they've never been and pull people they've never known from rubble, prompting chants of "U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!" when another life was saved.

The spirit that has sustained this Nation for more than two centuries lives on in you, its people. We have finished a difficult year. We have come through a difficult decade. But a new year has come. A new decade stretches before us. We don't quit. I don't quit. Let's seize this moment—to start anew, to carry the dream forward, and to strengthen our Union once more.

Thank you. God Bless You. And God Bless the United States of America.

BARACK OBAMA,

THE WHITE HOUSE, *January 27, 2010.*

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2009, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 26, 2009, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2949. An act to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for increased fiscal year 2010 payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries, to provide necessary funding to avoid shortfalls in the Medicare cost-sharing program for low-income qualifying individuals, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2009, the en-

rolled bill was signed on today, January 27, 2009, during the adjournment of the Senate by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, January 27, 2010, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 2949. An act to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for increased fiscal year 2010 payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries, to provide necessary funding to avoid shortfalls in the Medicare cost-sharing program for low-income qualifying individuals, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4502. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Army in fiscal year 2004, and has been assigned Army case number 08-06; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-4503. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9094-1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4504. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions (Multiple Chemicals)" (FRL No. 8801-9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4505. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dibenzylidene Sorbitol; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8802-5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4506. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Choline Chloride; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8802-4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4507. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading