

FOIA MARKER

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Collection:	Biden Vice Presidential Records			
Office of Origin:	Office of Records Management			
Series:	Subject Files - FG038			
Subseries:	VP Briefing Papers			
OA/ID Number:	00496			
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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Presidential Materials Division

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. Talking Points	Vice President Joe Biden UAW GOTV Call Talking Points [handwritten annotations on back side of last page] (5 pages)	11/02/2014	PRM
002. Remarks	Vice President Joe Biden Remarks at a "Souls to the Polls" Rally w/ Charlie Crist [includes handwritten notes on backside of last page] (10 pages)	11/02/2014	PRM
003. Remarks	Vice President Joe Biden GOTV Event for Bruce Braley and Dave Loebsack (17 pages)	10/27/2014	PRM
004. Remarks	Vice President Joe Biden Rally for Rep. Rick Nolan Hibbing, MN (15 pages)	10/23/2014	PRM
005. Remarks	Vice President Joe Biden Rally for Sen. Dick Durbin, Rep. Brad Schneider, and Paul Vallas Vernon Hills, IL (15 pages)	10/22/2014	PRM
006. Paper	[Background information with talking points for televised conversation with the Today's Show Al Roker on November 14, 2014] (1 page)	n.d.	P5
007. Draft	Memorandum to Staff of the Vice President from Vice President Biden, re: Family Obligations (1 page)	11/06/2014	P5
008. Draft	Draft Narrative Vice President's Remarks at the Inter-American Development Bank (7 pages)	n.d.	P5

COLLECTION:

Biden Vice Presidential Records
Office of Records Management
Subject Files - FG038 (VP Briefing Papers)
OA/Box Number: 00496

FOLDER TITLE:

FG038 OVP 2016693 [1 of 2]

2023-0031-F

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- (b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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2016693

FG038

Executive Office of The President Barcode Scanning Sheet



Collection Code: **VTRACK**

Staff Name: **JOE BIDEN**

Document Date:

Correspondent:

Subject/Description: **VPOTUS REMARKS AND NOTECARD REMARKS; NOV 17 14 - RE: CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS AND READINESS TASK FORCE MEETING; CEREMONIAL OFFICE OF THE VP NOV 14 14 - RE: CENTRAL AMERICA INTER-AMERICA DEVELOPMENT BANK; WASHINGTON, DC NOV 13 14 - RE: AFL-CIO AND AFT SUMMIT ON CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION; WASHINGTON, DC NOV 12 14 - RE: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PORT AUTHORITIES 103RD ANNUAL CONVENTION; HOUSTON, TX NOV 11 14 - RE: VETARANS DAY COMMEMORATION; ARLINGTON, VA NOV 02 14 - RE: UAW GOTV CALL TALKING POINTS NOV 02 14 - RE: "SOULS TO THE POLLS" RALLY W/ CHARLIE CRIST; FORT LAUDERDALE, FL OCT 28 14 - RE: NORTH AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE LEADERSHIP FORUM OCT 27 14 - RE: GOTV EVENT FOR BRUCE BRALEY AND DAVE LOEBSACK; DAVENPORT, IA OCT 23 14 - RE: DULUTH ANTI-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARD EVENT; DULUTH, MN OCT 23 14 - RE: RALLY FOR REP. RICK NOLAN; HIBBING, MN OCT 22 14 - RE: RALLY FOR SEN. DICK DURBIN, REP. BRAD SCHNEIDER, AND PAUL VALLAS; VERNON HILLS, IL OCT 16 14 - RE:**

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**THE VICE PRESIDENT
REMARKS ON CENTRAL AMERICA
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
WASHINGTON, DC
NOVEMBER 14, 2014**

Acknowledgements

- President Luis-Alberto Moreno of the Inter-American Development Bank (introducer)
- President Sanchez-Ceren of El Salvador
- President Perez-Molina of Guatemala
- President Hernandez of Honduras
- Officials of the Mexican and Colombian governments
- Members of the diplomatic corps, private sector, and civil society.

Introduction

Our countries are closely linked by family, friendship, trade, and simple geography.

What happens in Central America matters to us.

We are invested in your future.

Because it is fundamentally connected to our own.

We are here today because we have an opportunity for Central America to grow, to prosper, and to give all its citizens a sense of safety under the rule of law.

And where Central America's leaders are ready to take the initiative to address longstanding challenges, they will not do so alone.

They will have a partner in the United States. It's in our national self-interest to see you succeed.

The Alliance for Prosperity

And I see no reason why Central America cannot become the next great success story of the Western Hemisphere.

The Alliance for Prosperity your leaders are rolling out today –

if all its recommendations are implemented—
~~will~~
would be transformative for this region.

And there's no time to lose. As the plan says,

"the intensity of the problems we are enduring today
will be even greater tomorrow

if we do not move faster to achieve concrete results
that produce real improvements in the prospects
for employment, revenue and social well-being
in our countries."

I could not agree more

Urgent challenges demand urgent action
backed by courage and political will.

It's hard, but it can be done.

In fact, it has been done.

his - Alberto

Take Colombia.

Once among the most dangerous places on Earth,

Colombia benefitted from a succession of leaders

over a decade from different parties

who displayed the courage necessary

to tackle politically difficult reforms

regarding security, the economy, and human rights. *corruption*

Today the Colombian people enjoy

significant security and prosperity

and stand on the cusp of achieving a historic peace.

Why did Plan Colombia work?

Sure, the United States provided resources.

We invested \$9 billion over the course of Plan Colombia.

But more importantly, Colombia invested \$36 billion.

Colombia taught us that international support matters but no amount of foreign assistance is going to solve these challenges.

Because the key ingredient is not outside money. It is the political will required to do difficult things.

The government, the private sector and the Colombian people took ownership of systematic problems and made it a national project to tackle them?

- The country's elite agreed to pay higher taxes to contribute to the cause;
- Everybody agreed on the need to clean up Colombia's courts and police force;
- The government reestablished its presence throughout the country so that crimes could not be committed with impunity;
- But Colombia also improved its government institutions to make them more transparent; and reformed its rules of commerce to favor fair and open competition.

Support for Central America

That's what it takes, in the twenty-first century, to attract international support and investment.

But, where the will exists, the United States stands ready to partner with Central America to achieve tangible results—to the benefit of your people and the entire Hemisphere.

The U.S. approach will prioritize three mutually reinforcing areas.

First, security—which makes everything else possible.

Some communities in Guatemala and El Salvador are seeing the benefit of U.S.-sponsored programs on community policing, specialized police training, and youth centers.

We know they work, and we know you want to replicate them on a national scale. We can help do that.

Since 2008, we provided more than \$800 million toward citizen security in Central America.

We're working together all the time.

In fact, a high-level US security delegation is going to the region next week to highlight our cooperation against transnational organized crime.

Second, governance.

Governance and security are inextricably linked when it comes to the rule of law to making sure

- that police forces serve communities and win their trust;
- that crimes are investigated and punished;
- that courts are fair, ~~have~~
so that investors and every citizen receive equal justice without corruption or intimidation.

Also, Central America has some of the lowest effective tax rates in the world.

We can provide technical expertise to help you collect and manage revenues effectively and transparently.

Finally, prosperity— so that young people in Central America can live up to their potential, without having to uproot their lives or join a criminal gang.

We are ready, working with the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the private sector, and others:

- To help you update regulations to make it easier to start a business and attract more investment;
- To train young people for the jobs that will help their country compete;
- To make sure you are getting the most out of our existing free trade agreement.

- To put in place the rules that let countries lower energy costs and fully integrate Central America's electricity grids to North and South America.

And we are ready to back up our commitments – with respect to prosperity, security, and governance— with meaningful resources,

Over the summer, we asked Congress for \$300 million more in funding for Central America – nearly double what was available in 2014.

And we are committed to seeking a significant increase this Fiscal Year—to match the level of progress and political will demonstrated by the leaders here today.

We have already reallocated \$76 million in security funding to address urgent needs in the justice and law enforcement sectors.

On top of that,
the Millennium Challenge Corporation
just signed a new compact with El Salvador
for \$277 million to build

- the physical capital—the roads
 - the human capital – the job training
 - and the institutional capital—the right regulations;
- to help the country compete in the global economy.

El Salvador is providing \$88 million of its own money for
this.

We will do these things.

But today is about what we can do together in support of
the plan put forward
by the three presidents who have come here today.

Everyone has a role to play:

- Mexico and Colombia can and should continue to be engines for economic growth.

On energy, Mexico and Colombia are connecting their electrical grids to Central America.

Once complete, these two efforts, from the North and the South, can provide Central American consumers with more affordable electricity.

- International financial institutions can help ensure that Central America has access to credit to invest in its future and help governments craft more sustainable economic and fiscal policy;

- Europe and the international community can provide technical expertise and financial assistance.

- The private sector plays a vital role.

No amount of international governmental assistance can compare to the \$2.4 billion in Foreign Direct Investment that went last year to Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

- Business leaders from Central America can invest in Central America, instead of sending their money overseas.

The bottom line is that when we see the political will required to make progress, all of us must be ready to step up to the plate.

Unaccompanied Children

We saw the power of our partnership last summer, when we faced a spike in the number of unaccompanied minors making the harrowing journey from Central America to the southwest border of the United States.

Smugglers found a new business model – spreading misinformation about US immigration policy to prey on greater numbers of Central American families.

In response, we reached out to you—our friends and partners in Central America.

- I traveled to the region in June to consult directly with the leaders of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.
- Secretaries Kerry and Johnson also visited the region
- Weeks later, President Obama welcomed Central American leaders to Washington.

The President made clear that as Central American countries worked to address this problem, so would we.

At home, the United States took decisive action:

- We rushed to address the immediate humanitarian situation;
- We beefed up border security, surging resources to the Southwest border to detain, screen, and place migrants in shelters—while working to resolve their cases quickly, fairly and humanely.

And, with help from the United States and others, our Central American partners stepped up as well:

- Launching a campaign to warn people of the dangers of being exploited by heartless criminals and to make clear that they would not benefit from changes in US immigration policy.
- Expanding their capacity to receive and reintegrate migrants.
- Taking the fight to the smugglers.

We still have work to do.

But today the number of unaccompanied minors apprehended at the U.S. border

is the lowest it has been since January 2013.

This story—while far from over—
says a great deal about our approach to the region.

Where we see shared challenges,
we take shared responsibility.

And it's not about what we can do for the Americas.
It's about what we can do together.

We all have an obligation to help the most vulnerable
and to keep families together.

That's why I am pleased to announce today that we are
launching "in-country" refugee processing
for certain minors in Guatemala, Honduras, and El
Salvador
who meet the international standard for asylum.

Starting in early December,
this program will allow parents
who are lawfully residing in the United States
to request U.S. refugee resettlement
for children still in one of these three countries.

This program will provide a safe, legal, and orderly
alternative to the dangerous journey
that some children have been forced to take
to join parents in the United States.

It provides those seeking asylum a “right way” to come to
this country, as opposed to crossing our border illegally.

Immigration/Parole

And let's never forget that at the end of the day, what we are doing here is about human dignity.

- The dignity of holding a job—which is about so much more than a paycheck.
- The dignity of being able to keep your children safe.
- The dignity of being treated with respect and a sense of common humanity.

And that's why my country must deal with the unfinished business of bringing 11 million undocumented men, women, and children out of the shadows of American life to give them the dignity they deserve – while at the same time continuing to strengthen our own borders against illegal migration.

Our first choice is to achieve this through comprehensive immigration reform legislation—
like what passed the U.S. Senate with bipartisan support and the support of the majority of the people of this country.

And President Obama has repeatedly asked Congress to act on a comprehensive bill that would

- strengthen our borders,
- streamline our immigration system so that it works better for families and attracts the best and the brightest from around the world;
- and give an opportunity for folks who've lived here for years but aren't properly documented to
 - pay their taxes,
 - undergo background checks,
 - get in the back of the line,
 - but get through a process that allows them to be legal and eventually earn the right to be eligible for citizenship.

We will continue to press Congress to act.

But in the absence of Congressional action,
the President will not stand on the sidelines.

He will use his executive authority.

He will act, by the end of the year, on a set of
administration reforms
to improve our broken immigration system—
reforms targeted not at recent arrivals,
but at those who have been in the shadows the longest.

And he will take action to strengthen our borders,
focus enforcement on where it is most needed,
and help law enforcement serve and protect.

And by the way, we have already made significant strides
on border security by investing in new technology,
infrastructure, and manpower to prevent ^{illegal} border crossings.

We've now got nearly ten thousand more agents guarding
our borders than we did at the beginning of the 2000s.

The rate of illegal immigration, which once grew by a half a million each year, has now leveled off.

We must do more, and we will.

And our hope is that Congress will follow the President's lead and pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Waiting is not an option.

Conclusion

We each have work to do.

But it's not just our challenges that bring us together.

It's the enormous opportunity before us.

Up and down the Hemisphere, we have seen countries

- lift themselves up,
- reclaim their streets,
- and massively expand their middle classes.

We have a chance to make Central America part of this story:

- A Central America where your success in life is measured by how hard you work, not by who you know, or where you live, or how much money you're born into.
- A Central America
 - where criminals can't expect to escape justice,
 - where institutions are accountable,
 - where no mother wakes up wondering how she will feed her son and no father wonders how he will protect his daughter.
- A Central America that is not a world apart, but a vital, connected part of the world economy, a powerhouse in its own right that connects North and South.
- A Central America whose 43 million men, women, and children can find the lives they want at home.

There's a long way to go.

But as long as you keep the faith and keep moving in the
right direction,
you will never travel alone.

The great Irish poet Seamus Heaney wrote,
"History teaches us not to hope on this side of the grave.
But once in a lifetime, the longed-for tidal wave of justice
rises up,
And hope and history rhyme."

Let's make hope and history rhyme together.

May God bless the United States of America,
And may God keep safe our troops.

###

DRAFT REMARKS
THE VICE PRESIDENT
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Introduction

Our countries are closely linked/ by family/ friendship/ trade/ and simple geography/

What happens in Central America matters to us/

We are invested in your future/

Because it is fundamentally connected to our own/

We are here today/ because we have an opportunity for Central America to grow/ to prosper/ and to give all its citizens a sense of safety/ under the rule of law.

And where Central America's leaders/ are ready to take the initiative to address longstanding challenges/

they will not do so alone/

They will have a partner in the United States/

It's in our national self-interest to see you succeed./

The Alliance for Prosperity

And I see no reason why Central America cannot become the next great success story of the Western Hemisphere/

The Alliance for Prosperity/ your leaders are rolling out today /

if all its recommendations are implemented—

would be transformative for this region/

And there's no time to lose. As the plan says:

"the intensity of the problems we are enduring today will be even greater tomorrow if we do not move faster to achieve concrete results that produce real improvements in the prospects for employment, revenue and social well-being in our countries."

I could not agree more. Urgent challenges demand urgent action—backed by courage and political will.

It's hard, but it can be done. In fact, it has been done.

Take Colombia.
Once among the most dangerous places on Earth,
Colombia benefitted from a succession of leaders—
over a decade, from different parties—
who displayed the courage necessary to tackle politically difficult reforms regarding security, economic and human rights.

Today the Colombian people enjoy significant security and prosperity and stand on the cusp of achieving a historic peace.

Why did Plan Colombia work?

Sure, we provided resources. The U.S. invested \$9 billion over the course of Plan Colombia.

But more importantly, Colombia invested \$36 billion.

Colombia taught us that international support matters, but no amount of foreign assistance is going to solve these challenges.

Because the key ingredient is not outside money.
It is the political will required to do difficult things.

The government, the private sector, and the Colombian people took ownership of systematic problems and made it a national project to tackle them;

- The country's elite agreed to pay higher taxes to contribute to the cause;
- Everybody agreed on the need to clean up Colombia's courts and police force;
- The government reestablished its presence throughout the country so that crimes could not be committed with impunity;
- But it also improved its government institutions to make them more transparent and reformed its rules of commerce to favor fair and open competition.

Support for Central America

That's what it takes in the twenty-first century to attract international support and investment;

But where the will exists;

the United States stands ready to partner with Central America to achieve tangible results—

To the benefit of your people and the entire Hemisphere;

The U.S. approach will prioritize three mutually reinforcing areas;

→ First, security which makes everything else possible;

Some communities in Guatemala and El Salvador are seeing the benefit of U.S.-sponsored programs on community policing, specialized police training, and youth centers. We know they work, and we know you want to replicate them on a national scale. We can help do that.

Since 2008, we provided more than \$800 million toward citizen security in Central America. We're working together all the time. In fact, a high-level US security delegation is going to the region next week to highlight our cooperation against transnational organized crime.

→ Second, governance.

Governance and security are inextricably linked when it comes to the rule of law ~~/~~ to making sure that police forces serve communities and win their trust ~~/~~ that crimes are investigated and punished ~~/~~ that courts are fair ~~/~~ so that investors and every citizen receive equal justice without corruption or intimidation.

Also ~~/~~ Central America has some of the lowest effective tax rates in the world. ~~/~~ We can provide technical expertise ~~/~~ to help you collect and manage revenues effectively and transparently ~~/~~

→ Finally, prosperity ~~/~~ so that young people in Central America can live up to their potential ~~/~~ without having to uproot their lives ~~/~~ or join a criminal gang ~~/~~

We are ready ~~/~~ working with the Inter-American Development Bank ~~/~~ the World Bank ~~/~~ the private sector ~~/~~ and others ~~/~~

- To help you update regulations to make it easier to start a business and attract more investment ~~/~~
- To train young people for the jobs that will help their country compete ~~/~~
- To make sure you are getting the most out of our existing free trade agreement ~~/~~
- To put in place the rules that let countries lower energy costs ~~/~~ and *integrate* fully ~~/~~ Central America's electricity grids ~~/~~ to North and South America.

And we are ready to back up our commitments ~~/~~ - with respect to prosperity ~~/~~ security ~~/~~ and governance ~~/~~ - with meaningful resources,

Over the summer ~~/~~ we asked Congress for \$300 million more in funding for Central America ~~/~~ nearly double what was available in 2014 ~~/~~ And we remain committed to working with Congress ~~/~~ to match the level of concrete progress and political will demonstrated by the leaders here today ~~/~~

This includes \$76 million in security funding ~~/~~ that we have already retargeted ~~/~~ to address urgent needs in the justice and law enforcement sectors.

On top of that, the Millennium Challenge Corporation just signed a new compact with El Salvador for \$277 million to build

- the physical capital / the roads
- the human capital / the job training
- and the institutional capital / the right regulations

to help the country compete in the global economy.

El Salvador is providing \$88 million of its own money for this.

→ We will do these things.

But this isn't a donor conference.

Today is about what we can do together as an international community to support the plan put forward by the three presidents who have come here today.

Everyone has a role to play.

- Mexico and Colombia can and should continue to be engines for economic growth. On energy, Mexico and Colombia are connecting their electrical grids to Central America. Once complete, these two efforts, from the North and the South, can provide Central American consumers with more affordable electricity.
- International financial institutions can help ensure that Central America has access to credit to invest in its future and help governments craft more sustainable economic and fiscal policy.
- Europe and the international community can provide technical expertise and financial assistance.
- The private sector plays a vital role. No amount of international governmental assistance can compare to the \$2.4 billion in Foreign Direct Investment that went last year to Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

→ Business leaders from Central America can invest in Central America, instead of sending their money overseas.

The bottom line is that when we see the political will required to make progress/all of us must be ready to step up to the plate/

Unaccompanied Children

We saw the power of our partnership last summer/when we faced a spike in the number of unaccompanied minors/making the harrowing journey from Central America/to the southwest border of the United States/

Smugglers found a new business model/spreading misinformation about US immigration policy/to prey on greater numbers of Central American families/

In response/we reached out to you/our friends and partners in Central America/

- I traveled to the region in June/to consult directly with the leaders of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico/
- Secretaries Kerry and Johnson also travelled to the region/
- Weeks later, President Obama welcomed Central American leaders to Washington.

The President made clear that as Central American countries worked to address this problem/so would we/

At home/the United States took decisive action:/

- We rushed to address the immediate humanitarian situation/
- We surged resources to detain/screen/ and place migrants in shelters/while working to resolve their cases quickly/fairly/and humanely./

And/with help from the United States and others/our Central American partners stepped up as well:/

- Launching a campaign to warn people/of the dangers of being exploited by heartless criminals/and to make clear that they would not benefit from changes in US immigration policy.
- Expanding their capacity to receive and reintegrate migrants.
- Taking the fight to the smugglers./

We still have work to do. But today the number of unaccompanied minors apprehended at the U.S. border is the lowest it has been since January 2013.

This story—while far from over—says a great deal about our approach to the region.

Where we see shared challenges, we take shared responsibility.
And it's not about what we can do for the Americas.
It's about what we can do together.

We all have an obligation to help the most vulnerable and to keep families together.

That's why I am pleased to announce today that we are launching "in-country" refugee processing for certain minors in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador who meet the international standard for asylum.

Starting in early December, this program will allow parents who are lawfully residing in the United States to request U.S. refugee resettlement for children still in one of these three countries. This program will provide a safe, legal, and orderly alternative to the dangerous journey that some children have been forced to take to join parents in the United States. It provides those seeking asylum a "right way" to come to this country, as opposed to crossing our border illegally.

Immigration/Parole

Let's never forget that at the end of the day, what we are doing here is about human dignity.

- The dignity of holding a job—which is about so much more than a paycheck.
- The dignity of being able to keep your children safe.
- The dignity of being treated with respect and a sense of common humanity.

And that's why my country must deal with the unfinished business of bringing 11 million undocumented men, women, and children out of the shadows of American life to give them the dignity they deserve.

Our first choice is to achieve this through comprehensive immigration reform legislation / *like what passed the US Senate bi-partisan and supported by 1% of American people*

And President Obama has repeatedly asked Congress to act on a comprehensive bill that would /

- strengthen our borders /
- streamline our immigration system / so that it works better for families / and attracts the best and the brightest from around the world /
- and give an opportunity for folks / who've lived here for years / but aren't properly documented / to pay their taxes, undergo background checks, get in the back of the line, but get through a process that allows them to be legal and eventually earn the right to be eligible for citizenship.

We will continue to press Congress to act /

But in the absence of Congressional action / the President will not stand on the sidelines / *He will use his Executive Authority*

He will act / by the end of the year / on a set of administration reforms / to improve our broken immigration system /

Targeted not at recent arrivals / but at those who have been in the shadows the longest /

And our hope is / that Congress will follow his lead and do the right thing /

These actions will strengthen the border / and better focus enforcement / while making our immigration system more humane / Waiting is not an option /

Conclusion

We each have work to do /

But it's not just our challenges that bring us together /

It's the enormous opportunity before us /

Up and down the Hemisphere, we have seen countries lift themselves up/
reclaim their streets, and massively expand their middle classes.
We have a chance to make Central America part of this story:

- A Central America where your success in life is measured by how hard you work, not by who you know, or where you live, or how much money you're born into/
- A Central America where criminals can't expect to escape justice, where institutions are accountable, where no mother wakes up wondering how she will feed her son, and no father wonders how he will protect his daughter/
- A Central America that is not a world apart, but a vital, connected part of the world economy, a powerhouse in its own right, that connects North and South/
- A Central America whose 43 million men, women, and children can find the lives they want at home.

There's a long way to go. But as long as you keep the faith and keep moving in the right direction, you will never travel alone/

The great Irish poet Seamus Heaney wrote/
"History teaches us not to hope on this side of the grave/
But once in a lifetime, the longed-for tidal wave of justice rises up/
And hope and history rhyme."/

Let's make hope and history rhyme together//

May God bless the United States of America,
And may God keep safe our troops.

###

Remarks for Vice President Biden
AFL-CIO and AFT Summit on Career and Technical Education
Thursday, November 13, 2014, Washington, DC

Thank you, Alexis, for that introduction/I know your family and teachers are proud of you/But I'm proud of you, too/

To Rich and Randi, thank you for sponsoring this summit on career and technical education/

There's something Rich, Randi, and I have known for a long time/teachers aren't the only educators in America/

As my wife Jill would tell you/, organized labor has been educating/, teaching/, and mentoring workers for well over 100 years/

As my favorite poet/, William Butler Yeats/, once wrote/
"Education is not about filling a bucket/it's about lighting a fire."

You light the fire each and every day. You've all been educators.

And as my grandfather used to say, "If you want to learn a craft, join a union. Want to be the best at what you do? Join a union."

Whether it's United Mine Workers in coal mines, IBEW workers on high tension wires, UAW workers on auto assembly lines, or AFT teachers in our classrooms, organized labor is responsible for the United States becoming the world's greatest economic power in the 20th Century.

A lot of people don't remember that. But Randi and Rich do. All of you do.

Unions are the reason we have the best workers in the world/
partnering with employers and community colleges to offer apprenticeships/
and training that provide a path to the middle class/

Teachers are the reason they are prepared with the skills in the first place/

And we desperately need both of you/
as we do everything we can/
to rebuild the middle class in America. *THAT WAS ALREADY IN TROUBLE BUT WAS ASSUMED BY*

~~When we inherited~~ that God-awful Great Recession,/
we knew we had to rebuild the very foundation of this economy//
And that's what we've done.

- We've created more than 10.6 million private-sector jobs created for 56 straight months, the longest streak in American history.
- The unemployment rate is down to 5.8%—it was 10% at the height of the Great Recession.

- We've reduced the federal deficit as a share of the economy by 70%—the fastest rate since World War II.
- Manufacturing has added 728,000 jobs over the last five years—the fast growth since the 1990s.

But while we're rebuilding the foundation, we still have to reconstruct and reconnect the bridge from the foundation to the middle class that was washed away with the recession. /

And toward that end, we've got to do at least three things. /

One—deal with income inequity. /

That starts with a fairer tax code that values earned income more than unearned income. /

A hedge fund manager making hundreds of millions of dollars a year shouldn't pay a lower tax rate than a teacher or line worker making \$56,000 a year./

It means increasing the minimum wage/ because no one working full-time in America should live in poverty/

It means companies investing in their workforce and in research and development/ over the short-term return of shareholders.

Recent research of 449 companies on the S&P from 2003-2012 found that the companies invested their profits in this way: 54% in stock buybacks, 37% in dividends, and only 9% for expansion, research and development, workforce training, and wages. Just 9%.

Everyone from the Federal Reserve to the IMF/ to Standard and Poor's says/ growing income inequity is the greatest risk to economic growth.

Two—invest in our infrastructure—

It's not only a direct way to create millions of good-paying, middle-class jobs.

But it also attracts businesses from around the world who want to invest in the United States—because businesses locate where they can get product to the floor and off the floor as rapidly and cheaply as possible. And that means jobs.

And three—the subject of this summit, we have to maintain and enhance our standing as having the most skilled workforce in the world.

That's where unions, teachers, and all of you come in.

We know that we have the most productive workers in the world. We know Americans want to work.

They are ~~willing~~ to work. They are willing to go back and get retrained. They are willing to take a chance to improve their life and the lives of their family.

They just need to "know how to know." They have to know what jobs are out there, what kind of skills are needed, and how they can get those skills.

So the President asked me to come up with a game plan to do that.

And the report I issued this summer reinforced what we already knew: there are millions of good-paying jobs out there for folks, if only they have access to the right tools and the right kind of education to get them.

In fact, 6 out of 10 jobs over the next ten years will require training building off a high school degree. It can be a 16-week certificate to become a machinist who manufactures "fasteners" like bolts for planes, ships, and trains or an advanced degree or PhD in molecular biology.

Consider the following industries:

Information Technology. 1.3 million jobs are needed over the next 10 years. Software developers making \$86,000/year typically needs a bachelor's degree. Computer network specialist average salary is \$59,000/year. Don't need a college degree, but a two-year degree or less.

Health care. We need another 64,000 dental hygienists just in the near term. salary, \$70,000 a year median salary, can be trained by community colleges. Registered nurses, we need almost 600,000 registered nurses in the near term. average salary, \$65,000 to \$75,000 a year.

Advanced Manufacturing. 100,000 jobs going unfilled now in highly skilled manufacturing. Some require a bachelor's degree, others just two-year degrees or some training after high school.

Energy: We need 1,200 more solar panel installers within ten years making \$30,000/year; we need 115,000 more electricians, making \$50,000/year.

But all of this starts with the basics—/from training in the first instance to training later in life.

~~On early education,~~/ as Randi will tell you—/ a child who goes to preschool has a better chance of getting better grades, graduating high school, attending college, and getting a good job.

~~And~~ we know that children in low-income homes hear 30 million fewer words by age three than children from higher income homes./

But here's what we also know./ For every \$1 invested in high-quality early education,/ taxpayers save \$7 in societal costs—/ it means higher graduation rates, greater workforce productivity, and lower crime rates.

That's why the President and I continue to push for early education—it's absolutely critical.

We've invested over \$80 billion in child care and Head Start since 2009.

We've proposed "pre-school for all" because every child in America deserves that basic foundation that will lead to a life-time of learning.

For our elementary schools and high schools, we've provided support to strengthen academic standards, build data systems to help teachers identify and address the needs of students, and spur innovation and technology in our classrooms.

And teachers and principals are leading the way—and we ~~know we need to do everything we can to support them.~~

Today, our high school graduation rate is the highest ever and the high school dropout rate is at a historic low.

In fact, between 2008 and 2012, high school dropout rates for low-income, black and Hispanic students each decreased by 25% or more.

But it doesn't stop at high school—it continues to expanding access to an affordable college education.

We have enacted a \$2,500-a-year tax credit that helped millions students get to college. We've made historic investments to increase the maximum Pell grant amount by \$1,000.

And we have capped federal student loan repayment at 10% of income—so when your students graduate and get a good-paying job, they won't have to spend most of their salary on repaying their loans.

And all of this also expands access to our community colleges, which Jill often says are America's best secret. But the President and I have made sure that the secret is out.

That's why we've invested nearly \$2 billion in competitive grants to support partnerships between community colleges, businesses, and other partners such as organized labor, to do two things:

Determine what skills local employers are looking for, and then design curricula to equip students with those skills to get those jobs.

We've also requested another \$6 billion in our FY15 budget to support more of these partnerships and to fund more apprenticeships.

But despite all of this progress, we know there's so much more that needs to be done—and we can't do it without all of you.

There are about 140,000 career and education technical teachers in secondary schools in America.

They understand that schools need more partnerships with employers to support their own career and technical education programs—to get modern equipment in classrooms and to help tailor curriculum for jobs in the community.

But those partnerships benefit their students through internships and mentorships.

The President and Arne Duncan talk a lot about this—because the opportunity is tremendous.

That's why the Administration announced and have implemented programs like the \$100 million Youth Career Connect grant.

It supports schools that are partnering with local businesses or unions to offer their students a rigorous academic and technical education for high-demand fields, like information technology, engineering, and health care.

It's a chance to earn college credits and get internships—all while they are still in high school.

Just look at Alexis.

Her high school was one of the recipients of the grant. It's governed by a unique board that consists of leaders from the school district, local businesses, and unions like the Toledo Federation of Teachers.

So when talented students like Alexis excel in engineering, or want to be a software developer, they have pathways to those careers and to decent, good-paying jobs.

It's the kind of model of high school education that we should replicate across the country—and unions have been a critical partner.

In fact, unions have been doing this work forever.

For example, take the Ford-UAW Partnership. They have an apprenticeship that allows Ford employees to improve their skills and get higher-paying positions by participating in an apprenticeship.

The program takes four years—but you're earning while you learn. Over 23,000 workers have completed the program—earning \$59,000 a year as an apprentice and then \$68,000 a year after they complete the program. With overtime, they can earn even more.

Another example. I just visited Renton Technical College, outside of Seattle, Washington, which just won a federal grant because of their school-union-business partnership.

The school is partnering with employers and unions in the construction trades to develop training programs, like a pre-apprenticeship program that will prepare students for construction apprenticeships.

Students who graduate from the pre-apprenticeship will be able to obtain jobs as construction apprentices, who earn about \$35,000 per year in Washington State.

As they move up in their careers, they will be able to obtain jobs as construction journey workers, who earn about \$54,000 per year, and as first line construction supervisors, who earn over \$74,000 per year.

These partnerships provide a seamless transition—so folks can move from the classroom to jobs they can raise a family on.

Think of the workers who feel like they're in a dead end job and want to get a better one—these partnerships provide a pathway to that better job.

Think of other workers who are just getting started, and hungry to learn new skills and move up the ladder—these partnerships help them do that.

Partnerships are transformative. They are good for workers. But they are also good for business and the economy.

Folks, this is nothing new.

The reason why we became and remain the most powerful industrial nation in the world is because of our workers—because of a strong labor movement.

It helped create an entire economic enterprise unmatched by any other country in the world. It created a middle class that is the envy of the world.

But we're in a new world today. And we need you more than ever.

Because here's what I know for certain: Americans want work. All they want is a fair chance. Not a guarantee. Just a fair chance.

And organized labor and America's teachers—you're all about giving people that fair chance:

- A good education.
- Fair wages and safe working conditions.
- Hard earned health benefits and pensions.

I can go on.

You helped build the middle class. And you know what I know: given a fair chance, the American people have never, ever let their country down.

They—and all of you—are the reason why it's never, ever a good bet to bet against America.

May God bless you. And may God protect our troops.

###

Remarks for Vice President Biden
American Association of Port Authorities 103rd Annual Convention
Wednesday, November 12, 2014, Houston, TX

Thank you, Tay Yoshitani (Yo-she-ta-nee) for the introduction, and along with Kurt Nagle (Nay-gul), for your leadership of the American Association of Port Authorities.

Thanks to Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and Congressman Al Green for being here.

It's great to be back in Houston. I was at the Port of Houston almost exactly a year ago. And I'm honored to be with Roger Guenther (Gun-ther), the Executive Director of the Port Houston, as you celebrate its 100th anniversary and as you host this year's annual convention.

Thanks also to everyone from Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, and Latin America who are here today.

And a special thanks to all of the leaders and supporters representing America's ports that are the heart of our economic might and dynamism.

From the time I was elected to the United States Senate as a 29-year-old kid, I've seen up close how our ports are the major arteries that pump blood into our economy.

I represented ports along the Delaware River Valley.

Over my career, I've been to ports from Seattle to Houston, up the Mississippi River in Illinois, down through Savannah to Charleston, in Norfolk, Virginia then to New York, New Jersey, Boston, and Portsmouth.

All of you understand what I've seen and what most Americans often overlook: ports are the lifeblood of the American economy:

- The ports of the Western Hemisphere represented here handle 7.8 billion tons of cargo each year and generate \$8.6 trillion of total economic activity.
- And that means 13 million jobs—which account for \$650 billion in personal income.

- The Port of Houston supports 2 million jobs
- Port of Charleston: 280,000 jobs
- Port of Savannah: 350,000 jobs
- Port of Virginia: 343,000 jobs
- Port of Baltimore: 123,000 jobs.
- Delaware River Ports: 135,000 jobs.

If all the ports in the United States closed for just 10 days that would cost the country \$21 billion.

And a reliance on ports is a matter of fact for the economies of nations around the world—75% of the world's commerce is on the back of or in the hull of a ship floating somewhere on our rivers, seas, and oceans.

But folks, that's yesterday and today. I'd like to talk to you about tomorrow.

Tomorrow is a different world—a world in which our ports will play an even more critical role in the global economy.

It's estimated that 50% more freight cargo will flow into American ports by 2020.

Trade through our seaports accounts for 32% of our GDP—and is expected to increase to 37% next year—and 60% by 2030.

The U.S. transportation system moves 52 tons of goods worth \$46 billion each day—that's expected to increase by 62% by 2040. This will require additional capacity for our highways, railways, and ports and multi-modal connections.

And the world is changing rapidly—with the United States at the center of incredible economic growth and dynamism, which spurs manufacturing and attracts investment and jobs to our communities.

For example, North America is becoming the epicenter of energy in the 21st Century.

It's a fundamental change where people will no longer talk about the Gulf States in the Arabian Peninsula when it comes to energy.

~~There~~ are more oil and gas rigs in the United States than the rest of the world combined, with American oil production at a 20-year high.

We're the number one producer of natural gas in the world. Natural gas costs less than half of what it does in Europe and less than a third of what it does in Korea and Japan.

Since the President and I were elected to office, the United States has increase solar electricity generation more than ten-fold and tripled electricity generated from wind power.

And when Mexican President Nieto came into office, he took on an incredible challenge by reforming Mexico's energy sector to allow outside investment for the first time in over 60 years.

If successful, these reforms will increase oil production, nearly double natural gas development, and upgrade Mexico's electricity grid.

They will reinforce North America's position at the center of the global energy revolution—and will provide a stepping stone for further North American cooperation in places like Central America and the Caribbean.

Here's another example. The United States, as the most open society in the world, is generating phenomenal scientific, technological, and innovative changes that are on the horizon.

We are the most innovative country in the entire world.

- We have the greatest research universities in the world
- We're the largest investor in research and development
- We have the most high-tech manufacturing, and
- We are responsible for two-thirds of the world's venture capital investment.

And all of that means we're on the cusp of amazing breakthroughs and where the world looks to us for cutting-edge innovation:

- Dramatically increasing our understanding of how the brain works through investments in the BRAIN Initiative;
- Eliminating the often-agonizing waits for an organ transplant by pursuing advances in regenerative medicine; and
- Developing advanced materials that are stronger than steel and a fraction of the weight.

Another example of a changing world relates to trade. High-standard trade agreements are poised to generate even more economic growth and jobs.

For example, countries negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)—including Mexico and Canada—represent 40% of global trade.

The TPP will:

- Grow U.S. exports by \$123 billion a year
- Increase U.S. real income benefits by \$77 billion a year
- Support an additional 650,000 U.S. jobs
- Prevent us from losing market share to other countries
- Set rules of the road with other countries

The trade policy of 1950's, '60s, '70s and '80s doesn't fit what is needed in a 21st Century global economy.

We need a trade policy that is balanced and meets the increased demands we're expecting over the next few decades.

We need new rules of the road where everybody is in on the deal, it's fair, and raises standards across the board.

That's why I've been traveling to China, Japan, to Latin America, to Mexico, to Colombia making the case that all of this makes sense economically.

It is strategically critical that this happen. And it's fully within our capacity.

And a final example of fundamental change that's occurring: the United States is once again the magnet for manufacturing.

In the midst of the Great Recession, China rose to more than 17% of value added manufacturing and the U.S. dipped to 19%. China is now at 18% and the U.S. has risen to more than 20%.

Look where we are today. Over the last five years, American manufacturing has added 728,000 jobs—the fastest rate since the 1990s.

Folks, manufacturers are coming home—but don't take my word for it:

- Boston Consulting Group.

And all of this will enhance our position to take advantage of fundamental change happening on our high seas.

Huge post-Panamax ships that will soon begin passing through the Panama Canal:

- 8th wonder of the world
- Going from 106 foot beams to 160 foot beams
- Going from 965 feet long to 1,200 feet long

- Going from 39.5 foot draft to 50 foot draft
- Carrying more than 2 times the cargo at three-fourths the price.

It's a no brainer to modernize our ports to accommodate these massive ships—like they're doing from here in Houston to Baltimore.

And it's a no brainer to modernize our ports for other larger ships that will inevitably be on their way.

All of this will mean hundreds of thousands of jobs—and increasing already historic records in U.S. exports.

Last year alone, we had a record \$2.3 trillion in exports. And today, U.S. exports support 11.3 million jobs at over 300,000 companies—98% of which are small businesses.

That's 1.6 million more jobs than just four years ago—and jobs that pay 13 to 18% more on average than non-export related jobs.

And more exports mean more manufacturing jobs. One in four U.S. manufacturing jobs is supported by exports.

Folks, this incredible potential of energy, commerce, and jobs guarantees that America is positioned to lead the world economically in the 21st Century:

- Jobs and companies are coming home
- As I said, North America is the epicenter of energy
- We have the best research universities
- We have the most adaptive venture capital system
- We have the most productive workers

Again, don't take my word for it:

- AT Kearney

But we need to do two things to keep our edge.

First, maintain the world's most skilled workforce.

Second, modernize our infrastructure, including our ports.

**Vice President Biden
Veterans Day Commemoration
Arlington, VA
November 11th, 2014**

Row - DW

- **Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald**
- **Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel**
- **Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker**
- **General Martin Dempsey, Chair Joint Chiefs of Staff**
- **Leader Nancy Pelosi**
- **Senator Maize Hir/~~AH~~/no (D)/**
- **Senator Angus King (I)**
- **Senator Maria Cantwell (D)**
- **Ronald Hope and Garry Augustine, from the
Disabled American Veterans**
- **The Gold Star Families Among us.**

Ladies and Gentlemen, its one of the great honors
bestowed on me as Vice President is to be with you today
on this sacred ground.

It is a beautiful autumn day. The sun is shining. The skies are clear. The temperature is perfect.

It is nothing like the scorching heat, the bitter cold, the intense storms that confronted our troops through every conflict and every age.

Today's sunshine is nothing like the scorching heat our veterans endured while battling across sun-baked Coral Islands in the Pacific, in some cases going for days without water.

~~Nothing, nothing we experience in our daily lives,~~
~~compares to the hardship faced by a generation of~~
Americans who waded through the rice paddies of the Mekong Delta in Vietnam.

~~There's nothing here~~ that compares to the heat in Fallujah, where I visited our troops in Fallujah in the middle of the summer.

They showed me the inside of an MRAP vehicle that had just saved their lives from a roadside bomb.

And as I got out of that MRAP, I saw a thermometer in a nearby wall that read 115 degrees.

~~The chill they tell us we'll soon see in Washington from the polar vortex~~ is nothing compared to what our young men fought through in 25-below-zero temperatures in North Korea mountains, pinned down by enemy fire on frozen ground 60 years ago ✓

Nothing compared to the snow and cold that hampered our forces in the Ardennes Forest 66 years ago -

And nothing compared to what the 86th Brigade Combat Team or the First Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment or the 101st Airborne Division experienced in the mountains at the forward operating bases in Afghanistan.

These warriors do it every day. These are our fiercest warriors engaged and engaging a fierce enemy on fierce terrain.

And as I've said before, there's a great line in John Steinbeck's "East of Eden" where Cyrus Trask describes to his son, Adam, what it means to be a soldier. And here's what he says:

"A soldier is the most holy of all humans, because he is the most tested. A soldier must coldly learn to put himself in the way of losing his own life without going mad. If you can bring yourself to face not shadows, but real death, described and recognizable, by bullet or saber, arrow or lance, then you need never be afraid again."

I look out at all of you who have served our nation and all of you who have stood by their sides and waited as they served, and I see the most tested among us, the most tested of all Americans.

I also see the most honorable men and women, citizens who have never feared the future and are determined to build a better future to this day.

Collectively, the generations of soldiers, sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen, who have served and sacrificed for us are the heart and soul, the very spine of this nation.

And as a nation, we pause today to thank the more than 23 million surviving veterans who have so bravely and faithfully protected our freedom. You gave and they gave.

Those of you assembled here and those who have assembled at similar ceremonies all over the country — the millions of you who gave service, limb, and sometimes life, fulfilling your oath to this nation and to all of us, we owe you.

And in doing so, you imparted a responsibility on all of us as well to recognize, to respect, to honor, and to care for those who risk their lives so that we can live ours.

Just since 9/11, 3.5 million women and men joined the military with near certainty that they would be deployed to a warzone.

There have been over 2.6 million deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Some of you have been deployed multiple times to both places.

And more than half of you have returned to civilian life with the honored title of veteran.

This 9/11 Generation took on a responsibility that extended far beyond the base or the battlefield. They were prepared to follow Osama Bin Laden to the gates of hell. And they did.

Never before has America asked so much, ~~over~~ such a sustained period, of an all-volunteer force. And, like so many generations before them, this generation of 9/11 has paid an incredible price.

Every day I ask my staff to contact the Department of Defense to get a detailed report on the number of troops deployed, the number wounded, the number killed.

The exact number.

Because for every one of these warriors, there's an entire family, extended family back in America that has bled or is bleeding.

As of this morning, there were 6,703 Fallen Angels; 52,168 wounded.

And 19,650 warriors still in harm's way in Afghanistan, and 1,400 providing security assistance in Iraq.

I know them. ~~I've been with them.~~ I've seen the incredible sacrifices they've made and continue to make.

It's been my honor over the last two decades to visit our troops from Bosnia to Kosovo, from Iraq to Afghanistan, from six young warriors in a forward operating base high in the mountains of Northeast Afghanistan in the Upper Kunar Valley, to a crowded mess hall at Camp Liberty in Iraq.

And every time, every time I can say without fear of contradiction, I come away impressed with the intelligence, the grit, the resolve, and the patriotism of these young women and men.

And I find myself wishing the American people could see what I'm seeing.

I wish they could witness first-hand the incredible capability, devotion, and courage of these women and men.

And as all of you know it's not just the forces on the front line that are asked to sacrifice and to serve. It's all of the families. The mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, children.

John Milton, the English poet, wrote, "They also serve who stand and wait."

When my son Beau, a Major in the Delaware National Guard, was deployed to Iraq for a year, I would come into the kitchen every morning and see my wife Jill, standing over the sink, mouthing a prayer that the wife of our Adjutant General gave her.

You all know what it's like. And so we owe all of you.

As Jill points out, only 1 percent of America's population serves in uniform, but 99 percent of all Americans owe that 1 percent.

It is my firm belief that while our government has many obligations, it has only one sacred obligation.

And that's to care for and equip those who we send to war,
and care for them and their families when they come
home from war.

That's the only sacred obligation we have.

And we are honor bound to keep it.

You are remarkable.

Jill and I have visited wounded veterans in the hospitals
around the world, from Landstuhl, to Brooke Army Medical
Center, to Fort Bliss.

And every time, I always ask the same question.

"Soldier. Sailor. Marine. Airman. Coast Guardsman. What
can I do for you?"

And the answer is always the same – "Sir, can you get me
back to my unit?"

Jill and I recently hosted a team of wounded warriors at our home, as they prepared to represent our country at a competition in London called “The Invictus Games.”

And it struck me that there couldn’t be a more appropriate description for the determination, the commitment and the character shown by all of our veterans, than the lines of “Invictus”, the William Ernest Henly poem for which those games were named.

“It matters not how strait the gate
How charged with punishments the scroll
I am the master of my fate
I am the captain of my soul.”

Every single generation of veterans, throughout our history, has been the best of what this country has to offer.

It is as true today, as it was true 200 years ago, when a generation of warriors held the ramparts at Fort McHenry against the full might of the British Navy in the Battle of Baltimore.

And as the dawn's early light broke following that battle, a young lawyer named Francis Scott Key looked towards the fort's flagpole, asking a simple question:

“Does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave?”

That question, and its implicit aspiration, has echoed through every perilous fight that has turned Americans into veterans.

Did that star spangled banner wave in the hands of Civil War Sgt. William Carney, first African American Medal of Honor recipient, as he took that banner from a fallen comrade and charged the ramparts of Fort Wagner?

And did that star spangled banner yet wave over the observation post that Medal of Honor Recipient Sgt. Ryan Pitts held against enemy rocket-propelled grenades and machine gun fire in the Kunar Valley of Afghanistan?

Did that star spangled banner yet wave over six marines atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima?

Did that star spangled banner yet wave ... over American troops in –

- the trenches of France,
- the beaches of Normandy
- the mountains of Korea
- the jungles of Vietnam
- the streets of Fallujah
- and the valleys of Afghanistan?

And does that star spangled banner yet wave over:

- every forward position
- every ship
- every base
- every woman and man deployed in service to our nation today?

Does it wave on the front porches of families waiting out those deployments, silently praying for a warrior's safe return?

Does it wave over Walter Reed, Fort Belvoir, The Center for the Intrepid, the VA Poly trauma Center and so many others where American warriors continue the march to recovery?

Does it wave over every police station, firehouse, school, business and little league field where American veterans serve their community while standing ready in the Guard and Reserve?

Does that star spangled banner yet wave in the hearts of every American veteran, long after their time in uniform is through?

And does it yet wave ... in silent vigil ... above row upon row of white headstones ...here...and "over there".

Ladies and Gentlemen, Francis Scott Key's question persists to this day: "Does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave ... o'er the land of the free ... and the home of the brave?"

And thanks to the unbroken line of American warriors who have answered the call, the answer is of course: YES.

Now, and forever.

Because as every adversary, in every era, who has ever come up against you has learned, the American warrior –

- Never bends.
- Never breaks.
- Never, never, ever yields.

And that is why it has never, never, ever been a good bet to bet against the United States of America.

May God bless you all, and may God protect our troops.

###

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Presidential Materials Division

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. Talking Points	Vice President Joe Biden UAW GOTV Call Talking Points [handwritten annotations on back side of last page] (5 pages)	11/02/2014	PRM

**This marker identifies the original location of the withdrawn item listed above.
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COLLECTION:

Biden Vice Presidential Records
Office of Records Management
Subject Files - FG038 (VP Briefing Papers)
OA/Box Number: 00496

FOLDER TITLE:

FG038 OVP 2016693 [1 of 2]

2023-0031-F
JLO677

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or
financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President
and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of
personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed
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2201(3).

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
(b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of
an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
(b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
(b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial
information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
(b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of
personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
(b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement
purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
(b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of
financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
(b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information
concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Presidential Materials Division

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. Remarks	Vice President Joe Biden Remarks at a "Souls to the Polls" Rally w/ Charlie Crist [includes handwritten notes on backside of last page] (10 pages)	11/02/2014	PRM

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Remarks for Vice President Biden
North American Infrastructure Leadership Forum
Tuesday, October 28, 2014

I. Introduction

Thank you, Norm, for that introduction. My old friend and former staffer Danny O'Brien, who is here, calls you "Mr. Infrastructure."

You and this organization have done great work helping U.S. companies compete for infrastructure projects around the country.

I'm honored to be part of this forum.

You've got CEOs, investors, and public policy experts all together focused on one of the greatest needs facing our country: modernizing our infrastructure.

And if I may, I'd like to put all of this into the larger context of the incredible opportunities in the United States and across North America.

Consider two fundamental changes that are happening in our hemisphere.

First, North America will be the epicenter of energy in the 21st Century.

- There are more oil and gas rigs in the United States and Canada than the rest of the world combined.
- And Mexico's historic energy reforms—significantly increasing oil production, nearly doubling natural gas development, and upgrading its electricity grid—completes North America's energy picture.
- This energy transformation in Mexico will generate new, significant, opportunities for U.S. businesses. Ms. Lee Zak, Director of the US Trade and Development Agency is here. She and her team created a guide for US companies to get more involved in Mexico's infrastructure development. I encourage you to use the guide. A strong and prosperous Mexico is within our economic interests.

Second huge post-Panamax ships will soon begin passing through the Panama Canal.

- Seventy-five percent of all the commerce in the world is floating somewhere in the ocean. Once the Panama Canal expansion is operational in late 2015, it will accommodate giant new ships with 50 foot drafts, doubling the amount of cargo transiting the canal.

106 - 160

965 - 1,200,000

INVEST IN INFRA PORTS

This incredible potential of energy, trade, and commerce guarantees that North America remains the dominant economic force in the 21st Century.

But we need a modern infrastructure to fully take advantage of jobs and economic activity that will be generated across North America.

II. US Infrastructure Investment —

That's why here at home we have improved over 6,000 miles of rail, more than 350,000 miles of road, and 20,000 bridges to connect our entire infrastructure system.

And as I've traveled the country to visit many of these projects business leaders, union leaders, elected officials of both parties almost always explain about how these investments put folks to work and help businesses compete.

Created 100,000,000 good jobs

That's what infrastructure is all about. Business locate where they can get product to the floor and off the floor as rapidly and cheaply as possible.

And that means jobs and exports. According to the Commerce Department, in 2013, every \$1 billion in U.S. exports supported 5,590 jobs.

And last year, American exports reached a record \$2.3 trillion—more than \$250 billion to Mexico and more than \$360 billion to Canada.

But the American Society of Civil Engineers says we need \$3.6 trillion in infrastructure investments by 2020.

Yet we only invest less than 1% of our GDP in transportation infrastructure, ranking us 28th in the world among advanced nations.

That's simply unacceptable. And that's why this Administration has so aggressively encouraged public-private partnerships and financing.

Take our TIGER grants—which are targeted at connecting different points of our infrastructure system to eliminate bottlenecks and increase productivity.

Since 2009, \$4 billion in TIGER grants have leveraged nearly \$13.8 billion from state, local, and private partners. That's nearly \$4 in private investment for every \$1 in federal investment.

We've also proposed and are implementing the Build America Initiative, bringing together the public sector and the private sector to improve our infrastructure.

And I know Secretary Foxx is also ensuring that loans are available from the Department of Transportation whenever possible, a record \$7.5 billion in credit assistance to support \$25 billion in infrastructure project investments this year alone.

And we're going to keep pushing for the GROW America Act—because we need a multi-year investment in infrastructure—not these multi-month fixes when the Highway Trust Fund runs out.

III. North America

But it's not just what we do here at home—it's about the whole North American continent. And that means reducing barriers to trade and commerce at our borders with Canada and Mexico.

How do we do that?

We must deepen our trade relationships through high-standard agreements. The countries negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)—including Canada and Mexico—represent 40% of global trade.

U.S. goods exports to TPP countries totaled \$698 billion in 2013, representing 44% of total U.S. goods exports.

This agreement will lower tariffs on Made in America products, break down barriers to our goods and services, and set high standards to level the playing field for American workers and firms.

But we know there's more we can do.

That is why in September 2013, I went to Mexico to inaugurate the U.S.-Mexico High-Level Economic Dialogue.

It brought together our Departments of State, Commerce, and the US Trade Representative to strengthen our bilateral economic cooperation on infrastructure, air services, and regulatory cooperation in telecommunications and energy sectors.

In preparation for the next dialogue in Washington early next year, we have accelerated our joint efforts on priority infrastructure projects, including:

- South of San Diego ^{There is} crossing into Mexico is the busiest border crossing in the world. We just opened new lanes that reduced wait times from four hours to 30 minutes. The next phase, already funded by Congress, will bring further improvements.
- The West Rail bypass between Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Mexico will be the first rail bridge between the US and Mexico in 100 years. ~~It's a no brainer~~, we need to get it up and running as soon as possible.

And with Canada, our Beyond the Border program is upgrading our infrastructure and reducing wait times at our borders.

IV. Conclusion

Folks, our opportunities are limitless—at home and across North America. But we need you. We need your ingenuity. We need more public-private financing and partnerships.

We need you to write a new chapter in the oldest story in our history: build and build and the world will come to us.

Thank you all.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. Remarks	Vice President Joe Biden GOTV Event for Bruce Braley and Dave Loeb sack (17 pages)	10/27/2014	PRM

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**Remarks for Vice President Biden
Duluth Anti-Domestic Violence
Award Event
Thursday, October 23, 2014, Duluth, MN**

Acknowledgements

- U.S. Senator Amy Klob~~ach~~^{er}
- U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan (D-MN 8th)
- Mayor Don Ness (D-Duluth)
- Melissa - Duluth Model lead.
- State Rep. Carly Meh-leen
- State Senator David Tomassoni
- And I want to recognize State Rep. Michael Paymar,
who is still in Europe but who helped create the Duluth
Model in the 1980s.

I. Introduction

Mayor Ness and everyone involved, congratulations on receiving such a prestigious award – the world future policy award.

In 1975, you were the future.

You helped awaken not only the nation but the world to this most vile of crimes, domestic violence.

Thank you for inviting me to be in Geneva for the presentation of the award.

But I had a choice to make – Geneva or Duluth? I prefer Duluth.

I'm confident, Ellen is smiling now, knowing what she started is recognized as the best model in the world.

When I drafted the violence against women legislation in May of 1990, one of the first people on my staff – Professor Victoria Nourse who is with me on my staff– today contacted Ellen to help us.

And Ellen did.

She was brilliant, funny, and courageous.

But the thing I most admired, although I never met her,
was her sense of compassion and ^{sense of} urgency.

It's appropriate we're in this room, named after Ellen.

Ellen was committed to saving women and girls one at a
time.

More importantly, she understood what I deeply believe
we had to change the culture of the nation.

Nothing short of changing the culture of the nation.

The only way you do that is to involve the community.

That's exactly what Melissa just explained why your effort
here was so effective.

It's not just about the obligation of police to respond.

^{me}
It's about the obligation of community to respond.

^{Pam}
→ Domestic violence is a stain on the character of the nation.

To remove that stain, it starts in the neighborhoods, it starts in the town, it starts in the city.

It seems so obvious now, but it wasn't obvious then that in order to meet the needs of those being abused, it's critical to get law enforcement, civil, and criminal courts, victims service providers, crisis centers, shelters, and community leaders in the room together.

Because alone, none of them could solve the problem.

And all of you saw it first.

Now, it is standard practice, to have: -

- Advocates working inside police stations with investigators.

- Judges and prosecutors having consistent plans to respond to domestic violence
- Victims having access to comprehensive services—housing, counseling, child care, and employment assistance—to keep them safe—and help them recover.

And because of you—communities across the country and the entire world have a model to follow.

You built the model.

And the most encouraging thing to me is that so many other communities are following that model— not just in the United States but around the world.

I wish all of you can hear and see what I hear and see around the world.

And I've traveled the world extensively

When I was in India last July, I visited the SMEER-TEE museum in New Delhi with Gandhi's granddaughter Tarah.

And we talked about the plight of women in India.

She said, "Thank you for ~~introducing~~ the Violence Against Women Act. Thank you for speaking out. We need your help."

That experience has been repeated throughout the world.

The history of this struggle is far from over, but we've made great progress, in no small part because of the pioneering work done here in Duluth.

In September we celebrated the 20th anniversary of VAWA.

There's a lot to be proud of.

We've changed how the criminal justice system and our overall society addresses domestic violence—taking blame off the victim and holding the perpetrator accountable.

And the culture is changing.

When the debate about the need for shelters first emerged on the national scene, our opponents referred to them as indoctrination centers for runaway wives.

I was told when I introduced the legislation that I was interfering with family business.
It was a family affair.

We actually had testimony of so called experts that said at some point a man is not responsible for his actions.

Judges allowed testimony as to how short a women's skirt was, whether she was drinking.

State laws — I asked my staff to do an exhaustive review of state laws throughout the country.

And so many were written with the premise that a raped or beaten women must have done something.

- It was a lesser crime if she was a “voluntary social companion”
- 800-year old notion that women were property
- Plead manslaughter instead of murder under the “provocation defense.”

And critics opposed to my efforts to address violence against women called it a “fad.”

But — I was convinced, then as I remain convinced, that we had to rip the band-aid off, and force Americans to see the truth, the searing testimony of survivors.

I believed we could break through because I was absolutely convinced of the basic decency of the American people.

We believed we could break through because we were absolutely convinced that the basic decency of the American people would demand change. And they did.

We passed VAWA, including it in the Biden Crime Bill.
Look how far we've come:

- Saved lives: yearly domestic violence rates dropped 64% from 1993-2010;
- Saved the nation billions of dollars in averted social costs, medical costs, and lost productivity;
- Improved our system of justice.
 - Higher rates of convictions for special-victims units and fundamental reforms of state law

- The first National Domestic Violence Hotline—3.4 million women and men have received help/

*We've
improved
constantly*

- Reauthorized to protect more people from “dating violence”—train health care providers to screen and counsel their patients for domestic abuse—ensure VAWA services to the LGBT community—and protect Native American woman from domestic violence by non-Indian offenders./

But there's still a lot of work to be done./

II. White House Efforts on VAWA

But we know there's so much more we can do. And the President and I are committed to doing everything we can./

- VAWA Advisor in White House/

- In the Recovery Act we invested \$200 million in state grants to help VAWA-programs stay afloat during the economic crisis.
- I called the first cabinet meeting of its kind to address the high rates of dating violence and sexual assault facing young women.
- We modernized the definition of rape in our nation's crime statistics, which hadn't changed since 1929.
- Last month we launched "It's on Us" to zero in on sexual assault on college campuses including engaging men.
- I've also announced a Summit on Civil Rights and Equal Protection for Women to bring together legal scholars, prosecutors, and the DOJ to revisit the civil rights remedy that Chief Justice Rehnquist struck down.

III. Conclusion

Folks I'm often asked what constitutes success/ – when will we have succeeded./

We will have succeeded when.../ No woman

And when we finally get there/ it will be because of what you started right here in Duluth./

Thank you for your passion.

Thank you for your courage.

Congratulations again.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. Remarks	Vice President Joe Biden Rally for Rep. Rick Nolan Hibbing, MN (15 pages)	10/23/2014	PRM

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005. Remarks	Vice President Joe Biden Rally for Sen. Dick Durbin, Rep. Brad Schneider, and Paul Vallas Vernon Hills, IL (15 pages)	10/22/2014	PRM

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006. Paper	[Background information with talking points for televised conversation with the Today's Show Al Roker on November 14, 2014] (1 page)	n.d.	P5

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007. Draft	Memorandum to Staff of the Vice President from Vice President Biden, re: Family Obligations (1 page)	11/06/2014	P5

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008. Draft	Draft Narrative Vice President's Remarks at the Inter-American Development Bank (7 pages)	n.d.	P5

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