
REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF
CONGRESS ON JANUARY 28, 2014 . . .

To the Congress of the United States:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, my fellow Americans:

. . . The Joining Forces alliance that Michelle and Jill Biden launched has already encouraged employers to hire or train nearly 400,000 veterans and military spouses. Taking a page from that playbook, the White House just organized a College Opportunity Summit where already, 150 universities, businesses, and nonprofits have made concrete commitments to reduce inequality in access to higher education--and help every hardworking kid go to college and succeed when they get to campus . . .

. . . We need to work together on tools like bipartisan trade promotion authority to protect our workers, protect our environment, and open new markets to new goods stamped "Made in the USA." China and Europe aren't standing on the sidelines. Neither should we.

. . . Congress, give these hardworking, responsible Americans that chance. They need our help, but more important, this country needs them in the game. That's why I've been asking CEOs to give more long-term unemployed workers a fair shot at that new job and new chance to support their families . . . Tonight, I ask every business leader in America to join us and to do the same--because we are stronger when America fields a full team . . .

Five years ago, we set out to change the odds for all our kids. We worked with lenders to reform student loans, and today, more young people are earning college degrees than ever before. Race to the Top, with the help of governors from both parties, has helped States raise expectations and performance. Teachers and principals in schools from Tennessee to Washington, D.C. are making big strides in preparing students with skills for the new economy . . .

So just as we worked with States to reform our schools, this year, we'll invest in new partnerships with States and communities across the country in a race to the top for our youngest children . . .if we work together; if we summon what is best in us, with our feet planted firmly in today but our eyes cast towards tomorrow--I know it's within our reach.

Believe it.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

Barack Obama.

The White House, January 28, 2014.