

Remarks on Immigration Reform Legislation April 5, 2006

The United States Senate is debating a very vital issue for our country, and that is immigration reform. I urge the Senators to continue to work toward get a comprehensive bill; a bill that will help us secure our borders; a bill that will cause the people in the interior of this country to recognize and enforce the law; and a bill that will include a guest-worker provision that will enable us to more secure the border, will recognize that there are people here working hard for jobs Americans won't

do, and a guest-worker provision that is not amnesty, one that provides for automatic citizenship.

This is a vital debate. I thank the Members who are working hard to get a bill done. I strongly urge them to come to conclusion as quickly as possible and pass a comprehensive bill.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:55 a.m. on the Colonnade at the White House.

Remarks in a Discussion on Health Care Reform in Bridgeport, Connecticut April 5, 2006

The President. Thank you all. Darrell, thanks for the invitation. I think you're going to find this an interesting way to discuss a vital issue for our country, and that is, really, how do we stay competitive? How does the United States of America remain the preeminent economic leader in the world?

And one way you do so is you make sure you've got an environment where small businesses can thrive, where people can feel comfortable in having health care that's available and affordable. So thanks for coming and giving us a chance to discuss the issue. You notice I say "us." There's nothing worse than a guy kind of blowing away in a lecture, so I've invited fellow citizens to come and share their experiences about an interesting way to approach affordability and availability in health care.

But before I do that, I want to thank you all very much for taking time out of your day to come and listen. I appreciate very much the Governor, Jodi Rell, joining

us. Governor Rell is a—you know, I know something about Governors. I used to be one. She is really a dignified, classy woman who has done a fine job for the State of Connecticut.

I flew down today with Congressman Chris Shays. Shays is a very thoughtful person. He is a friend. He is an independent fellow—[laughter]—who speaks his mind. But he does so in a way that gets people to listen to him. And I appreciate his thoughtful approach to a lot of issues. And I appreciate your friendship as well. I'm looking forward to hearing your lecture on the way back to Washington. [Laughter]

Mr. Mayor, thank you for joining us. So Laura comes back and says, "I met the mayor of Bridgeport. He's a good guy." I say, "Well, that's great." I don't know what you did, Mayor, but you at least convinced the First Lady you're a good guy. [Laughter] And I appreciate your hospitality and your kindness to my wife who—you know, she's really not a politician. She is a really fine woman, great mother, great