

can't arbitrarily deny you coverage right when you need care.

So that's just on health care. And it's making an impact on people's lives day to day. But here's the thing. Frankly, not that many people watch cable TV. What they do is they listen to their friends, their neighbors, their coworkers. And that's why what you guys are doing today at the caucus and what you will be doing every day from now until November makes such a difference. Because nobody is a better messenger for the kind of change we're talking about than you. You can tell a story about the difference these policies make in your life in a way that any politician in Washington, including me, can't do.

And one of the things that we learned 4 years ago was that when people at grassroots level are getting involved and they're getting engaged and they're feeling empowered and they're joining hands with each other, that's a powerful force. It can't be stopped. But unfor-

tunately, over the—[inaudible]—it's not as focused and concentrated as an election campaign. And so the forces of big money and special interests and lobbyists, they all come to the fore, and the pundits and the cable TV dominates the political conversation.

Well, you know what, fortunately in 2012 we've got a chance to respond. And I will put my money on you. I find you a lot more persuasive than anybody on cable TV, and that's why I know we're going to win.

Thank you.

Mr. Stewart. Great. Thank you very much, sir. We appreciate your time. We appreciate Cedar Rapids. We're going to let you get back to the remainder of your caucuses.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:10 p.m. via videoconference from the Capital Hilton hotel in Washington, DC, to caucus attendees. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the audio was incomplete.

Remarks in Cleveland, Ohio January 4, 2012

The President. Well, I just want to thank the Easons and Ms. Kirkpatrick for welcoming us. As some of you may be aware, just in terms of background, the Easons, who have been married for 42 years now—Mr. Eason is a former marine and so served our country in the Korean war—were living in their home, were taken advantage by a mortgage broker, and as a consequence, ended up being \$80,000 in debt. The repairs that had originally been promised to be made for a few thousands dollars were never completed, and they almost lost their home.

And thanks to Ms. Kirkpatrick's organization and some timely intervention, they were able to stay in their home and prevent foreclosure. But it's a good example of the kinds of trickery and abuse in the nonbank financial sector that we're going to have to do something about. And we're so glad that we've got somebody like Rich Cordray who's willing to take this on and make sure that families like the Easons, who've done the right thing, who've been responsible,

who've served their country, that they're not taken advantage of and they're able to live in security and dignity in their golden years.

So thank you so much for letting us be in your home, Mr. Eason and Mrs. Eason. Thank you.

William Eason. It's an honor you being here.

The President. Well, we appreciate your service all the way around.

Now, he's not mentioning he also used to be a boxer, so if you guys break anything in here, you could be in trouble. [Laughter]

Thanks, guys.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:25 p.m. at the residence of William and Endia Eason. In his remarks, he referred to Richard A. Cordray, Director-designate, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; and Deonna Kirkpatrick, communications director, Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.