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Obama: Congress Obstructs, So I Act Alone

The Huffington Post/AP

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WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama says he'll keep acting on his own as long as congressional Republicans block his economic agenda.

In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama says he has moved to attract jobs, raise workers' wages and help students pay off loans because Republican obstructionism is keeping the system rigged against the middle class. He says if it makes Republicans in Congress mad that he's trying to help people, they can join him so they can work together.

Obama also wished good luck to the U.S. team as it prepares for its next World Cup soccer match in Brazil.

In the Republican address, Louisiana Rep. Bill Cassidy pushes growing the U.S. energy, manufacturing and construction industries, including approval of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, to create jobs.

Read Obama's full address below:

Hi, everybody. This week, I spent a couple days in Minneapolis, talking with people about their lives – their concerns, their successes, and their hopes for the future.

I went because of a letter I received from a working mother named Rebekah, who shared with me the hardships her young family has faced since the financial crisis. She and her husband Ben were just newlyweds expecting their first child, Jack, when the housing crash dried up his contracting business. He took what jobs he could, and Rebekah took out student loans and retrained for a new career. They sacrificed – for their kids, and for each other. And five years later, they've paid off debt, bought their first home, and had their second son, Henry.

In her letter to me, she wrote, "We are a strong, tight-knit family who has made it through some very, very hard times." And in many ways, that's America's story these past five years. We are a strong, tight-knit family that's made it through some very tough times.

Today, over the past 51 months, our businesses have created 9.4 million new jobs. By measure after measure, our economy is doing better than it was five years ago.

But as Rebekah also wrote in her letter, there are still too many middle-class families like hers who do everything right – who work hard and who sacrifice – but can't seem to get ahead. It feels like the odds are stacked against them. And with just a small change in our priorities, we could fix that.

The problem is, Republicans in Congress keep blocking or voting down almost every serious idea to strengthen the middle class. This year alone, they've said no to raising the minimum wage, no to fair pay, no to student loan reform, no to extending unemployment insurance. And rather than invest in education that helps working families get ahead, they actually voted to give another massive tax cut to the wealthiest Americans.

This obstruction keeps the system rigged for those at the top, and rigged against the middle class. And as long as they insist on doing it, I'll keep taking actions on my own – like the actions I've taken already to attract new jobs, lift workers' wages, and help students pay off their loans. I'll do my job. And if it makes Republicans in Congress mad that I'm trying to help people out, they can join me, and we'll do it together.

The point is, we could do so much more as a country – as a strong, tight-knit family – if Republicans in Congress were less interested in stacking the deck for those at the top, and more interested in growing the economy for everybody.

So rather than more tax breaks for millionaires, let's give more tax breaks to help working families pay for child care or college. Rather than protect tax loopholes that let big corporations set up tax shelters overseas, let's put people to work rebuilding roads and bridges right here in America. Rather than stack the decks in favor of those who've already succeeded, let's realize that we are stronger as a nation when we offer a fair shot to every American.

I'm going to spend some time talking about these very choices in the week ahead. That's because we know from our history that our economy doesn't grow from the top-down, it grows from the middle-out. We do better when the middle class does better. That's the American way. That's what I believe in. And that's what I'll keep fighting for.

Have a great Fourth of July, everybody – and good luck to Team USA down in Brazil.

Thanks.

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**Cherise Leffall** · Murrieta, California

No Mr. President, you don't stand alone, we the people of the United States stand with you.

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LOL...Have you seen the president's number lately?

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Curtis Deon Brown Have you seen Congress' numbers lately?

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**Curtis Deon Brown** · Keller, Texas

Renee Anderson Could have swore this article was about your precious king?

Like · Reply · 25 · Jun 28, 2014 9:25am · Edited

[Show 10 more replies in this thread](#)**Mike Cox** · Portage Central High School

The people of this nation have seen and witnessed a congress that is not serving this nations best interest. The fault is clearly { All REPUBLICAN !!!!!!! }
THE BLIND EYES ARE THEIR SUPPORTERS !!!!!!!

Like · Reply · 103 · Jun 28, 2014 8:32am

**Curtis Deon Brown** · Keller, Texas

Don't know if you ever took a civics class but thats the job of an opposition party. We live in a republic, not a monarchy.

Like · Reply · 180 · Jun 28, 2014 9:10am

**Patrick Carney** · Kent State University

Curtis Deon Brown Kings aren't elected, twice.

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**Niel Leon**

Curtis Deon Brown, yes, it is incumbent on the opposition or minority party to challenge the decisions of the majority party when the do not reflect their interests. With this stated, it is not appropriate to

1. Say NO to everything.
2. Not proposal alternatives the policies that are being proposed.
3. Reject proposals which were originated on their side (example universal health care first started in MA)
4. Claim the leader is wrong about everything

Niel

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After listening to the utter nonsense of the melanin-phobic Tea Party and Republicans for the last few years, my ability to debate intelligently is limited to a quick throat punch. It saves a lot of time and is, quite frankly, extremely satisfying.

Like · Reply · 144 · Jun 28, 2014 8:40am

