

## Behind The Scenes: A State of the Union Sit-Down with President Obama

[MUSIC]

[APPLAUSE]

PRESIDENT OBAMA: After the sixth time, I suspect that I'm a little more relaxed and a little better at it than I was the first time out. But you never get completely used to it. There's a certain pageantry to it. Sergeant at Arms announces you, you're walking down that aisle, and you're reminded of the incredible privilege that you have in being the president.

And hopefully all the members of Congress who are there are reminded that, you know, we get these positions for a finite amount of time and we've got to make the most of it when we have it.

Anybody who is a sports fan knows that you've got to play the whole game and over the last six years we have been weighed down by the legacy of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

And because of the incredible grit and resilience of the American people, America is now in position to really turn the page. Last year was the best job growth we had seen since the 1990s. The unemployment rate has now dropped down to 5.6 %. We've seen manufacturing come back; we have cut our deficits. Gas prices have dropped.

And so, we are well positioned for the future, but the key is making the right choices.

And so, this State of the Union gives me an opportunity to present to the American people, now that we have fought our way through the crisis, how do we make sure that everybody in this country -- how do we make sure that they're sharing in this growing economy, how do we make sure that they have the tools to succeed.

You know, if you think about what's already happened just in the last month, in addition to major initiatives surrounding immigration, around Cuba, around climate change, when it comes to dealing with bread and butter issues for middle class families all across America.

We've put forward proposals for making community college free, so that young people can access the education they need. We're working together with the private sector to increase internet access for communities that feel left out, to increase competition, and to protect our privacy and our security. That's just been the last month, so you know, I think over the next two years we have the opportunity to not simply continue the momentum that was built last year, but to really capitalize on some of the long term trends that make America best position to take advantage of the 21st century.