

THE WHITE HOUSE

October 19, 2010

I am so pleased to send my warmest greetings to all of you gathered for the National Dialogue on Workplace Flexibility, Challenges and Solutions for Small Business at the Department of Labor.

Over the last century, the American workforce has changed dramatically. Today, both women and men face competing demands from work, education, child care, and elder care. At the same time, globalization and advances in technology are transforming the way we work, as smart phones, video conferencing, and remote computer networks are becoming the norm in many workplaces.

As we strive to produce a more sustainable and successful economic future in this changing environment, policies that provide workplace flexibility are more critical now than ever before. In March 2010, the inaugural White House Workplace Flexibility Forum brought together small business owners, corporate leaders, workers, policy experts, and labor leaders to discuss the importance of creating workplace practices that allow men and women to meet the demands of their jobs without sacrificing the needs of their families. Employees that have the flexibility they need to fulfill their obligations at work and at home are often more productive, have lower turnover rates and are healthier overall. Flexible workplace policies also help to ensure companies stay competitive and profitable in the current economy.

These issues fundamentally affect how all Americans live and work, and the President and I applaud your efforts to continue this essential dialogue. Thank you again for all that you do, and for your commitment to helping pave the way for the workplace of the future. I wish you all the best for a successful event.

*Michelle Obama*