

THE WHITE HOUSE

April 27, 2011

I am so pleased to send my warmest greetings to all of you gathered in Chicago for the Families Resilience Conference, and I want to thank you for the important work you do each day.

Through your work at the Department of Defense and the Department of Agriculture, you help to provide critical support to our military families. You are on the front lines, answering phone calls during difficult moments, and connecting families with the resources they need in your agency, at their schools, in their places of worship, and all across their communities.

Our service members and their families need to know we support them not just with words, but with deeds. At DoD and USDA, you are doing just that. You are partnering with military and civilian programs to provide service in rural areas where many of our Guard and Reserve families live, and in big cities that are home to our veterans and Blue Star and Gold Star families.

Recently, Dr. Jill Biden and I launched Joining Forces, a nationwide campaign that calls on all Americans to recognize, honor, and support our military families. We want this effort to be worthy of the commitment our military families have shown, and like all of you, we want to see an America where every part of this country steps up with their full support. Your service is helping us to realize this vision.

So, thank you again for all that you do. I hope you never forget how important your work is—both for our military families and our country. I wish you all the best for a wonderful conference.

*Michelle Obama*