

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

October 14, 2011

This week, President Obama traveled to Pittsburgh, where he held a meeting of his Council on Jobs and Competitiveness and continued to emphasize the importance of passing the American Jobs Act, his plan to create jobs and restore our nation's economic security. The President also celebrated the Latino community at the White House Forum on American Latino Heritage and welcomed the official visit of South Korea President Lee Myung-bak and his wife, noting the mutual economic benefits of the two countries' new trade agreement that Congress passed this week. The Democratic National Committee launched its "Which Mitt" website to put a spotlight on Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's record of flip-flops. Additionally, after the Republican presidential candidates met for their debate in New Hampshire this week, the DNC and Democratic state parties all over the country launched a full-scale effort to respond to Mitt Romney's assertion that a payroll tax cut to provide economic relief to middle-class families amounted to "little band-aids." The DNC and state parties also criticized the Senate GOP's decision to block consideration of the American Jobs Act, calling it blatant partisan politics and underscoring the need to create jobs now. Finally, as Rick Perry was in Pittsburgh to give a speech on energy policy, the DNC released a Fact Check on Perry's false claims and his efforts to change the facts on his own failed record as Texas governor.

President Obama Meets with Jobs Council, Promotes American Jobs Act in Pittsburgh, PA

On Tuesday, the President traveled to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #5 Training Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he held a meeting of the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness and spoke about the American Jobs Act, which will get more Americans working again and put more money back into the pockets of middle-class families and small businesses. As the U.S. Senate prepared to hold a vote on the American Jobs Act on Tuesday evening, the President emphasized the importance of passing the bill, saying:

"Today, my Job Council laid out new actions we can take together -- the private sector and government -- to help unleash a new era of entrepreneurship in America that will grow the economy and create jobs, and strengthen our ability to compete with the rest of the world. But even as we help to fuel the next big American industry, we also understand that people are out of work right now. They need help right now. So everything that we talked about with respect to the Job Council is going to help America become more competitive, help entrepreneurs create more jobs, lay the foundation for long-term, sustainable growth.

"But right now, our economy needs a jolt. Right now. And today, the Senate of the United States has a chance to do something about jobs right now by voting for the American Jobs Act. Now, this is a moment of truth for the U.S. Senate.



"In front of them is a bill, a jobs bill, that independent economists have said would grow this economy and put people back to work. This is not my opinion; it's not my administration's opinion. This is people whose job it is for a living to analyze and evaluate what kind of impact certain policies would have. They've said this could grow the economy significantly and put significant numbers of Americans back to work. And no other jobs plan has that kind of support from economists -- no plan from Congress, no plan from anybody."

To watch video of the President's speech in Pittsburgh, you can go [here](#).

The President Delivers Remarks at White House Forum on American Latino Heritage

The President on Wednesday spoke at the White House Forum on American Latino Heritage, which was held at the Department of Interior. This event was held to celebrate Latino culture and honor the many contributions that the Latino community has made to our nation. During his speech, the President said:

"Right now, there are 54 million Americans of Latino descent -- one-sixth of our population. Our neighbors, our coworkers, our family, our friends. You've helped us build our cities, grow our economy, defend our country. And today, for the first time in history, there is a Latina in my Cabinet and a Latina on the bench of the highest court in the land. Hilda Solis is doing an outstanding job.



"Now, this forum is about celebrating that heritage, because too often the achievements of Latinos go unrecognized. And there are achievements that have been hard-won. We know life hasn't always been easy for Latinos in this country, and still isn't. The land of opportunity hasn't always been the land of acceptance. But the fact that Latinos have done so much and come so far is a testament to the vision that has sustained you. It's a vision that says, maybe I never had a chance to get a good education, but I want my daughter to go to college, maybe get a second degree. Maybe I started out working in the fields, but some day I'll own my own business. Maybe I wasn't born in this country, but I'll sign up to fight for it. Maybe I have to make sacrifices, but those sacrifices are worth it if it means a better life for my family."

You can watch video of President Obama's remarks [here](#).

President Obama Holds Joint Press Conference with South Korea President Lee Myung-bak



On Thursday, the President welcomed South Korea President Lee Myung-bak and his wife during their visit to the United States this week and held a joint press conference with the South Korean leader. During the press conference, President Obama and President Lee both lauded the new South Korea Free Trade Agreement passed by Congress this week, which significantly increases American output, strengthens the 200,000 U.S. jobs currently supported by South Korean trade and supports at least 70,000 more. The President said:

"This state visit reflects the fact that the Republic of Korea is one of our strongest allies. Because we've stood together, the people of South Korea, from the ruins of war, were able to build an economic miracle and become one of our largest trading partners, creating jobs and opportunity for both our peoples. Because we stood together, South Koreans were able to build a strong and thriving democracy and become a steady partner in preserving security and freedom not only on the Korean peninsula, but beyond."

To watch video of the joint press conference, you can go [here](#).

Senate Republicans Vote to Block American Jobs Act – DNC Issues Strong Response

On Tuesday evening, the Senate held a vote on the American Jobs Act, and despite the fact that it contains proposals that Republicans have supported in the past, Senate Republicans all decided to put party before country and voted to block consideration of the bill. In response to the Senate GOP's refusal to work with Democrats to pass the President's bipartisan plan to create jobs, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz issued the following statement:

"Tonight, the United States Senate had an opportunity to move the American Jobs Act forward. This bill would create jobs and put more money back into the pockets of middle-class Americans and small businesses. It was a moment of truth for Republican Senators – a chance to put country before party and work with the President and Democrats to pass this critical legislation to put more Americans back to work and help middle-class families across the country get back on their feet.

"Once again, Republicans said 'no' – 'no' to compromise, 'no' to giving working Americans a chance to succeed, and 'no' to restoring our economic security. It's a predictable message from the GOP these days, and it comes on the heels of declarations by House Republicans that the American Jobs Act is dead on arrival – assertions that were made before holding a single hearing on the bill or giving it a minute of serious consideration. We're hearing the same thing from the GOP presidential candidates, who offer no plan of their own to create jobs or improve our economy.

"Who in the world are the Republicans saying 'yes' to? It's not the leading economists from across the political spectrum, who have said the American Jobs Act will prevent another economic downturn by increasing growth and creating as many as 1.9 million jobs for American workers. It's certainly not the American people, who have made it clear they want their leaders to come together to find solutions that will get our country working again. The GOP isn't listening to them – they are focused squarely on the interests of the Tea Party. They want to return to the same failed policies of the past that got us into this mess – giving even more tax cuts to the nation's wealthiest and special interests and letting Wall Street write its own rules.

"This is unacceptable. Struggling middle-class families across the country are looking to us to get our economy back on track. It's time for Republicans to wake up, say 'yes' to the American people for once, and work with the President and Democrats to pass the American Jobs Act."

DNC Launches "Which Mitt" Website

On Monday, the Democratic National Committee launched a new website, www.WhichMitt.com, highlighting the numerous flip-flops that Mitt Romney has made on a variety of issues – the auto industry recovery efforts, health care reform, a woman's right to choose, LGBT rights, and many more. Visitors to the website are guided through a series of multiple choice questions asking which statement reflects Romney's view on a given issue – the correct answer, of course, is always "all of the above."



Take the DNC's "Which Mitt" quiz at www.WhichMitt.com to learn more about Mitt Romney's record as the ultimate flip-flopper.

Holding Republicans Accountable

On Tuesday, the Republican candidates for president met in New Hampshire for their next debate. DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz issued a debate prebuttal memo outlining the GOP candidates' out-of-touch policies, in which she said:

"Tonight's debate will show the sharp contrast between President Obama's plan to create more jobs right now and the Republican candidates' plans, which don't create jobs now and instead provide more tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires without providing any immediate relief to middle-class Americans, as well as rolling back common-sense consumer protections that would benefit corporations at the expense of people.

"The Republican candidates continue to promote the same failed economic policies that led to the recession: letting Wall Street write their own rules; tax cuts for the wealthy and big corporations; and repealing Wall Street Reform, which created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, designed to protect middle-class American consumers from predatory lending. Even more, they have all voiced support for the Republican budget that would end Medicare as we know it while giving NEW tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires and the special interests."

Democratic state parties across the country echoed the DNC's strong rebuke of Mitt Romney and of the Senate GOP's failure to work with President Obama and Democrats to pass the American Jobs Act.

Finally, on Friday, after Rick Perry delivered a speech in Pittsburgh on his energy policy, the DNC released a Fact Check correcting the record on Perry's numerous false claims and outlining his close ties to Big Oil and failed energy policies as governor of Texas.

DNC Releases Two Web Videos Slamming Mitt Romney for "Band-Aids" Comment

This week, following the GOP presidential debate on Tuesday in which Mitt Romney referred to extending middle class payroll tax cuts as "little band-aids" that he does not support, the DNC released two new web videos as part of its "Operation Band-Aids" push to hold Romney accountable for his blatant dismissal of vital economic relief for middle-class families.

The first video, "Romney's Little Band-Aids," was released on the heels of Romney's comment and can be viewed [here](#).

The second video is titled "Temporary Little Band-Aids?" and was released at the end of the week. This video puts into real terms what \$1,500 in middle class tax cuts – which President Obama has proposed through an extension of the payroll tax cut and which Mitt Romney opposes – would mean to America's middle class families. You can watch it [here](#).

The New Hampshire and Iowa Democratic Parties held a press call hitting Romney on his "little band-aids" comment, as did the New Mexico and Washington Democratic Parties.

Key Issues in the News and Background

Talking Points: Republicans Fail to Act

- Tonight, a majority of U.S. Senators voted to proceed with consideration of the American Jobs Act. However, despite the fact that this legislation incorporates ideas that Republicans have previously supported, there was not a single Republican who voted for the bill tonight. Rather, they voted to block consideration of the American Jobs Act.
- The Senate vote this evening is hardly the end of the fight for the American Jobs Act. Leading economic experts have stated that the bill will lead to economic growth and create almost two million jobs – and that's why Americans are supporting the bipartisan, reasonable ideas in the American Jobs Act.

- The GOP, on the other hand, has put party before country – they have failed to offer a plan that these same economic experts say would lead to job creation or economic growth now, and they simply continue to stand together in blanket opposition to the President.
- Now, we will be working to ensure that the individual components of the American Jobs Act will be voted on as quickly as possible.
- In the very near future, members of Congress will be required to take a position on whether or not we should put teachers, veterans, police officers and firefighters back to work. They will have the opportunity to decide whether or not they support cutting taxes for middle-class families and small businesses, and whether or not we should modernize and rebuild America's schools – as opposed to simply extending tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans.
- As each of these votes is held, members of Congress have a choice to either justify to the American people why they oppose reasonable, bipartisan proposals that lead to job creation – or they can finally pay attention to the vast majority of the American people who are demanding we take action. The reality is that with so many Americans without work and with so many middle-class families struggling to make ends meet, we can't let this be the end. Everyday Americans will not allow us to take no for an answer. The time has come for Congress to follow through on its responsibility to the American people, set partisan politics aside, and move forward to create jobs immediately.

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