

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

March 3, 2012

This week, the President met with the National Governors Association and called on America's governors to make a greater investment in education. He highlighted the success story of the U.S. auto industry and its recovery while addressing the United Auto Workers at their annual national conference, and he joined First Lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Biden and Dr. Jill Biden in hosting an official dinner at the White House paying tribute to our Iraq War veterans and marking the end of the war. During a visit to New Hampshire, he discussed his blueprint for an economy built to last – with an all-of-the-above approach to American energy that reduces our dependence on foreign oil. Additionally, the Democratic National Committee honored March as National Women's History Month with statements from DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz and DNC Women's Caucus Chair Mame Reiley.

With this week's Republican primaries in Michigan and Arizona, and the Super Tuesday contests on March 6 on the horizon, the Republican presidential candidates continued to push their failed agenda and launch false attacks on President Obama's record. In response, Democrats across the country fought tooth and nail to set the record straight and make sure voters knew the truth about the President's achievements as well as the backwards priorities and extreme positions of Mitt Romney and the rest of the GOP field – not only their failed economic policies and record, but also their right-wing views on immigration and women's health.

President Obama Addresses National Governors Association, Urges Investment in Education

On Monday, President Obama and Vice President Obama met with the National Governors Association (NGA) at the White House, where the President challenged governors across the country to ensure that all students in their schools are able to obtain the education and develop the skills need to compete for the jobs of tomorrow's economy. During his remarks at the NGA meeting, President Obama said:

"Today, the unemployment rate for Americans with at least a college degree is about half the national average. Their incomes are about twice as high as those who only have a high school diploma. So this is what we should be focused on as a nation. This is what we should be talking about and debating. The countries who out-educate us today will out-compete us tomorrow. That's a simple fact. And if we want America to continue to be number one and stay number one, we've got some work to do."



You can watch the President's remarks [here](#).

At United Auto Workers Conference, the President Hails Resurgence of America's Auto Industry

Emphasizing the success of the U.S. auto industry, President Obama spoke at the United Auto Workers (UAW) Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. When the President took office, the nation's three largest automakers were on the brink of collapse – and despite strong opposition from Republicans like Mitt Romney who suggested that we “let Detroit go bankrupt,” President Obama refused to bet against America's carmakers and took decisive action to help the auto industry recover. During his remarks, the President said:



“It wasn’t because of anything the government did. It wasn’t just because of anything management did. It was because I believed in you. I placed my bet on the American worker. And I’ll make that bet any day of the week.

“And now, three years later -- three years later, that bet is paying off -- not just paying off for you, it’s paying off for America. Three years later, the American auto industry is back. GM is back on top as the number-one automaker in the world

-- highest profits in its 100-year history. Chrysler is growing faster in America than any other car company. Ford is investing billions in American plants, American factories -- plans to bring thousands of jobs back to America.

“All told, the entire industry has added more than 200,000 new jobs over the past two and a half years -- 200,000 new jobs. And here’s the best part -- you’re not just building cars again; you’re building better cars.”

Watch President Obama’s speech at the UAW conference [here](#).

President Obama Honors Iraq War Veterans with White House Dinner

On Wednesday, President Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Biden and Dr. Jill Biden hosted a Department of Defense dinner paying tribute to our Iraq veterans and marking the end of the war. The dinner, officially titled, “A Nation’s Gratitude: Honoring those who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn,” included more than 100 service members and their guests, with invitees from every branch of the Armed Forces and from all ranks. During the dinner, the President welcomed the veterans home, honored their bravery and their commitment to their country, and thanked them on behalf of more than 300 million Americans. He said:

“You taught us about duty. Blessed to live in the land of the free, you could have opted for an easier path. But you know that freedom is not free. And so you volunteered and you stepped forward, and you raised your hand and you took an oath -- to protect and defend; to serve a cause greater than yourself, knowing, in a time of war, you could be sent into harm’s way.

“You taught us about resolve. Invasion turned to insurgency and then sectarian strife. But you persevered, tour after tour, year after year. Indeed, we’re mindful that even as we gather here, Iraq veterans continue to risk their lives in Afghanistan, and our prayers are with them all tonight.

"In one of our nation's longest wars, you wrote one of the most extraordinary chapters in American military history. Now the Iraqi people have a chance to forge their own destiny, and every one of you who served there can take pride in knowing you gave the Iraqis this opportunity; that you succeeded in your mission."

You can watch the President's remarks [here](#).

In New Hampshire, the President Discusses Gas Prices, Oil Subsidies and the U.S. Economy

President Obama on Thursday traveled to New Hampshire to tour Nashua Community College and discuss his blueprint for an economy built to last, with a focus on American energy and reducing our dependence on foreign oil. During his visit, the President renewed his call to repeal the \$4 billion in taxpayer subsidies that the oil industry receives each year – and he stressed that we must work toward an "all of the above" approach that develops every source of energy available to the American people. During his remarks in Nashua, President Obama said:

"Now, one of the reasons our oil -- our dependence on foreign oil is down is because of policies put in place by our administration, but also our predecessor's administration. And whoever succeeds me is going to have to keep it up. This is not going to be solved by one party; it's not going to be



solved by one administration; it's not going to be solved by slogans; it's not going to be solved by phony rhetoric. It's going to be solved by a sustained, all-of-the-above energy strategy.

"And no matter what you hear from some folks in an election year, the key part of this strategy over the last three years has been to increase safe, responsible oil production here at home while also pursuing clean energy for the future. We don't have to choose between one or the other, we've got to do both.

"So when it comes to oil production, under my administration, America is producing more oil today than at any time in the last eight years. That is a fact. That's a fact. Under my administration, we have a near-record number of oil rigs operating right now -- more working oil and gas rigs than the rest of the world combined. Think about that. That's a fact."

Watch President Obama's remarks [here](#).

DNC Honors March as National Women's History Month

In honor of National Women's History Month, the Democratic National Committee released statements from DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz and DNC Women's Caucus Chair Mame Reiley.

Here is the statement from Chair Wasserman Schultz:

"Women's History Month provides all Americans an opportunity to honor the contributions that millions of American mothers, sisters, and daughters have made to our country. This year, the theme of Women's History Month is 'Women's Education—Women's Empowerment.' As we know, it has been a long and difficult journey for women's equality in education. It was not until 1833, when Oberlin College was chartered, that an American college would admit women for study. In 1972, Title IX was passed and when it was enacted in 1977, it prohibited gender discrimination by federally funded institutions and remains a powerful tool for women's advancements in education.

"As we reflect on the history of American women, it is important to recognize the sweeping progress for women in this country under President Obama's leadership. The President took the important step of enacting the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the first act he signed into law as President, and moving us one step closer to equal pay for equal work. He also fought successfully for passage of the Affordable Care Act, which prevents insurance companies from unfairly discriminating against women—and he recently showed great courage by addressing concerns over religious liberty while still ensuring that all women will have access to free preventive care, including contraception, no matter where they work. Through the Recovery Act, he issued more than 2,300 microloans and invested in 12,000 women-owned small businesses by way of more than \$3 billion in grants. He nominated two women to the Supreme Court, including the first Latina, and seven women to cabinet-rank positions. And he is helping to increase participation by women and girls in the science, technology, engineering and math fields.

"But while this month offers a critical period of reflection on how far we've come, it's also a reminder that we have more to do. As a mother of two daughters, I believe we must remember the accomplishments of our mothers and grandmothers not only for what they have achieved, but also so that we may inspire future generations with their example."

Here is Women's Caucus Chair Mame Reiley's statement:

"We know that over the course of American history, women have fought bravely for the right to participate fully alongside men in the voting booth, in the board room, and in every aspect of our daily lives. It's a struggle that continues to this day—but as a result of the unbreakable strength and dedication of so many American women who have made this nation great, we are now closer than ever before to achieving full equality.

"But if Women's History Month teaches us anything, it's that we must never stop fighting to move our nation forward and secure a better future for all women. That means standing up against assaults on women's rights in Congress and on the campaign trail, and making our voices heard by actively participating in our political process and engaging women in their local communities. We know the crucial role that women have to play in the 2012 election—in 2008, President Obama won the women's vote by 13 points. We must continue to engage women voters across the country, and that is exactly what we will be doing at the DNC each and every day from now until November and beyond."

Holding Republicans Accountable

With the Republican primaries in Michigan and Arizona this week and the Super Tuesday contests on March 6 just around the corner, the GOP candidates were once again in overdrive with their failed agenda and distortions of both President Obama's achievements and their own record. In response, the Democratic National Committee and Democrats across the country were there every step of the way to make sure voters had the real facts on the GOP field – from their failed economic record and policies to their extreme agenda on immigration and women's health.

On Monday, the DNC released a new web video, "Let Detroit Go Bankrupt," that holds Mitt Romney accountable for turning his back on the state of Michigan when he suggested that we should "let Detroit go bankrupt. You can watch it [here](#).

DNC Vice Chair R.T. Rybak was on hand in Michigan before the primary to talk to the media and make sure voters knew that President Obama – unlike Romney and Rick Santorum, who has also come out strongly against the auto recovery package – refused to bet against the American worker and was proud to support the iconic U.S. auto industry in its hour of greatest need. In advance of the Arizona primary, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Representative Charlie Gonzalez and civil rights leader Dolores Huerta held a press conference call discussing Mitt Romney's extreme immigration positions and endorsements by the country's leading anti-immigrant voices –

including Arizona Governor Jan Brewer.

SO WHAT DOES THE BILL THAT ROMNEY CHAMPIONS MEAN FOR WOMEN?

On Tuesday, DNC Communications Director Brad Woodhouse released a memo ahead of the Michigan and Arizona primaries, which emphasized that Mitt Romney's victories in both contests would come at a cost. It said:

"Romney may pick up two victories on Tuesday night, but his out-of-touch positions and pandering to the right wing are causing him to pay dearly among independent, moderate and blue-collar voters who

Romney cannot afford to lose in the general election. Just look at the numbers—after losing five out of nine GOP contests, a new POLITICO/George Washington University [battleground poll](#) found that just a meager 33 percent of independents now view Romney positively, while 51 percent view him negatively. Meanwhile, Santorum fares slightly better than Romney among independent voters—but a whopping 28 percent of them still say they have no opinion of Santorum or have never even heard of him. Once they discover that Santorum is squarely interested in issues that divide Americans—he's even called public schools outdated "factories" that should be dismantled—they're likely to go running in the other direction."

Democrats also continued to press Mitt Romney on his extreme immigration positions. DNC Vice Chair Linda Chavez-Thompson, Arizona House Minority Whip Anna Tovar and Arizona State Rep. Ruben Gallego held a press conference discussing the critical choice facing Arizonans in this election and how a victory for Romney there will come at a high price: alienating general election voters, including independent, moderate and Latino voters in the state.

Following the results of the Michigan and Arizona primaries, DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz released a statement which said:

"Mitt Romney's run to the right may have allowed him to stumble forward in the slog for the Republican nomination, but make no mistake, it has hurt him in irreparable ways. It's no surprise that Romney is quickly becoming the most unpopular potential general election nominee in history. His ceaseless efforts to pander to voters aren't winning him any prizes among independents, and his policies will do absolutely nothing to help America's families get ahead. Voters know that Mitt Romney proves every day that he is wrong for our country and wrong for our future."

On Wednesday, the DNC released two web videos. The first – "Romney, Out of Touch?" – highlighted the many out-of-touch statements Mitt Romney has made on the campaign trail. You can watch it [here](#). The second video, titled "The Facts," sets the record straight on the President's unwavering commitment to Israel and its security, while responding to GOP distortions of President's Obama strong record. You can view it [here](#).

Senator Carl Levin and former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm held a press conference call to discuss the cost of the Michigan primary to Mitt Romney's general election prospects – noting that Romney's run to the far right will greatly damage his standing among working and middle-class voters.

On Thursday, the DNC released a new video – "What Romney will take away from Women" – showing the extreme stance that Mitt Romney has taken on women's health by declaring his support for the Blunt-Rubio Amendment, which Senate Republicans failed to pass this week. This amendment is a blatant attack on a woman's right to make her own health choices. You can watch the video [here](#).

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz also released a statement following Senate Republicans' failure to pass the Blunt-Rubio Amendment. It said:

"When there are so many important issues in our country and we're working hard to continue our economic recovery, it's outrageous that Senate Republicans would distract from these important issues by trying to push the Blunt-Rubio Amendment, legislation which would severely restrict women's access to health care. The Blunt-Rubio Amendment would let any employer who has a problem with providing any type of health insurance coverage to deny their employees that coverage. But make no mistake, this is about one thing and one thing only: the extreme right wing fringe of the Republican Party – the only wing of the Republican Party that Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum and GOP leaders listen to – continuing their assault on a woman's access to contraception and vital health care services."

On Friday, Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz held a press conference call with women's health leaders in Washington State to talk about the Blunt-Rubio Amendment and the fact that Mitt Romney is attempting to attack women's health care to score political points with right-wing Republican voters.

Key Issues in the News and Background

Romney Misleads Michigan Voters, Attacks President's Successful Auto Rescue (2/27/12)

Key Point: Mitt Romney is misleading Michigan voters, attacking President Obama for successfully rescuing the auto industry and saving more than 1.4 million jobs.

- When the auto industry was about to collapse, Mitt Romney said we should "let Detroit go bankrupt." Now that Romney has to win votes in Michigan, he's trying to rewrite history and claim credit for the auto recovery when he opposed the President's rescue package.
 - Please see [*Ron Bloom's op-ed in The Detroit News*](#) on the subject.
- Romney is misleading voters about the President's bold and decisive rescue of the auto industry. But voters deserve the truth.
 - Romney opposed the rescue package for automakers, which would have led to liquidation and the loss of more than 1.4 million jobs up and down the supply chain.
 - In exchange for emergency rescue loans, President Obama demanded tough concessions and shared sacrifice from both labor and management. And in return, America's carmakers retooled to create the energy efficient cars of the future and become competitive in the global marketplace.
 - Automakers couldn't have survived bankruptcy on their own, and frozen credit markets at the height of the financial crisis meant there was no private financing available. The President's rescue loans helped the auto industry survive bankruptcy so it could thrive today.
- The President's tough and decisive action is paying off. Detroit is building cars of the future and America's carmakers are creating jobs.
 - GM and Chrysler repaid their outstanding loans years ahead of schedule.
 - GM is once again the world's top carmaker. Its 2011 profit was \$7.6 billion, its largest ever.
 - The auto industry added more than 200,000 jobs in the last two and a half years, and 2011 was the strongest year of industry job growth since 1994.
 - Demand for their cars is going up, so GM, Ford and Chrysler are starting to run three production shifts a day. Added shifts and new facilities mean jobs for thousands more workers in Michigan.

###

The President's All-Of-The-Above Energy Strategy Helps Families Save at the Gas Pump (2/27/12)

Key Point: President Obama's all-of-the-above energy strategy is reducing our dependence on foreign oil and helping families save at the pump.

- Republicans are trying to distort the President's clean energy record, but voters deserve the truth. President Obama's all-of-the-above energy strategy is reducing our dependence on foreign oil and helping families save at the pump.
- The President knows that rising gas prices are hitting families hard. As long as America has been dependent on foreign oil, consumers have been subjected to unpredictable price swings at the pump.
- The President knows we can't just drill our way to lower gas prices and we won't solve this problem overnight. That's why he's focused on developing all of America's natural resources – domestic oil, gas, wind, solar and biofuels – and encouraging fuel efficiency so that we can reduce our dependence on foreign oil over time.
- Oil and gas development has increased every year of the Obama administration and domestic oil production is now at an eight-year high – and our dependency on foreign oil is now at a 16-year low. President Obama has:
 - Expanded domestic oil production by speeding up the leasing process and improving safety measures to prevent future spills.
 - Proposed opening up more than 75 percent of undiscovered oil and gas resources for development in the Gulf of Mexico and the Arctic.
 - Taken an important step forward in allowing safe exploration of one of the Arctic Seas, which could yield up to 15 billion barrels of oil.
 - Helped America regain its position as the world's leading producer of natural gas. Now he's promoting the safe, responsible development of America's near 100-year supply of natural gas that will help create more than 600,000 jobs.
- President Obama has also made record gains in clean energy development, including:
 - Agreeing with automakers to nearly double fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks. That will help to save families more than \$8,000 per vehicle at the pump and decrease our oil consumption by an estimated 2.2 million barrels a day.
 - Boosting our use of cleaner fuels, including increasing the level of ethanol that can be blended into gasoline and setting a new Renewable Fuel Standard that will save nearly 14 billion gallons of gasoline in 2022.
 - Positioned America to be the world's leading manufacturer of the high-tech batteries that will drive the next generation of clean energy vehicles.
- The President isn't just helping families save at the pump through his comprehensive energy strategy. He put a \$1,000 back in the pockets of hardworking Americans by cutting payroll taxes, and he just extended it through 2012 so their taxes don't go up. Every working family gets a tax cut, and a typical family earning \$50,000 will save an average of \$40 with every paycheck, giving them an extra cushion to afford to fill up at the pump.
- While President Obama is helping families save money at the pump, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum did the opposite.
 - As governor, Romney increased a tax on gas by 400 percent. He also has no plans to stop subsidizing oil and gas companies with taxpayer dollars even though they're making record profits.
 - Santorum and Romney both opposed increasing fuel-efficiency standards that are helping families save at the pump.
 - They also opposed extending the President's payroll tax cut, which Romney called a "little Band-Aid."

###

Americans Oppose Repealing Health Reform; Strongly Support Law's Individual Parts (2/27/12)

Key Point: Americans oppose repealing health reform and they strongly support many of the law's individual parts.

- Today's [USA TODAY/Gallup poll](#) is an outlier and doesn't match other surveys. In fact, public polling shows that Americans oppose repeal, and they strongly support many of the law's individual parts.
- Contrary to *USA TODAY's* assertion, other public polls show that Americans oppose repealing the President's landmark health reforms. Voters prefer that the law remain in place.
 - 61 percent say their family will be better off or have no difference. [[Kaiser Family Foundation](#)]
 - 50 percent want the law to be expanded or kept as is. [[Kaiser Family Foundation](#)]
 - Less than half of voters support repealing the law entirely. [[NBC/WSJ](#)]
- Americans strongly support many individual parts of the health law:
 - 79 percent support the insurance exchanges that will give access to quality, affordable health care to more than 30 million Americans. [[Kaiser Family Foundation](#)]
 - 71 percent support preventing insurance companies from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions. [[Harris](#)]
 - 57 percent support letting young adults stay on their parents' plans until they turn 26. [[Harris](#)]
 - 56 percent support requiring insurance companies to reimburse subscribers if they don't spend at least 80 percent of their revenues on care rather than overhead or profits. [[Harris](#)]

###

President Obama Successfully Rescued the Auto Industry, Saving More Than 1.4 Million Jobs (2/28/12)

Key Point: President Obama successfully rescued the American auto industry, saving more than 1.4 million jobs up and down the supply chain.

- President Obama spoke to the United Auto Workers today about his bold and decisive call to rescue the auto industry, which saved more than 1.4 million jobs up and down the supply chain.
- Three years ago, the American auto industry was on the verge of collapse, with millions of jobs hanging in the balance. Mitt Romney opposed a rescue package, saying we should "let Detroit go bankrupt" and – with the rest of the Republican field – bet against America's carmakers.
- President Obama stood by America's workers, and it's paying off. Now a retooled and restructured auto industry is back, making the energy-efficient cars of the future.
 - GM is once again the world's top carmaker. Its 2011 profit was \$7.6 billion, its largest ever.
 - The auto industry added more than 200,000 jobs in the last two and a half years, and 2011 was the strongest year of industry job growth since 1994.
 - Demand for their cars is going up, so GM, Ford and Chrysler are starting to run three production shifts a day. Added shifts and new facilities mean jobs for thousands more workers in Michigan.
- Please visit BarackObama.com/Auto-Recovery for more information.

###

Romney Is Out Of Touch With Ohio Voters and Is Wrong For Ohio in Every Way (2/29/12)

Key Point: Mitt Romney is trying to win over Ohio voters, but he's both out of touch with their beliefs and wrong for Ohio in every way.

- Mitt Romney is campaigning in Ohio today ahead of next Tuesday's primary. He's asking Ohioans to vote for him, but he's both out of touch with their beliefs and wrong for Ohio in every way.
- Romney is out of touch with the issues Ohioans care about, having opposed President Obama's rescue of the auto industry.
 - Nearly 850,000 jobs in Ohio rely on the auto industry. When the industry was on the line, Romney opposed efforts to rescue the auto industry. That would've destroyed automotive jobs in places like Toledo, Sandusky and Lordstown.
 - President Obama understands the importance of our auto industry. He stood by America's workers, and it's paying off. He saved more than 1 million jobs up and down the supply chain, and the auto industry has added more than 200,000 jobs in the last two and a half years.
- Romney runs further to the right in every state, saying things that alienate moderate and independent voters. Ohio is no exception; Romney is out of touch with what most Ohioans believe.
 - Romney embraced Issue 2, which would have curtailed unions' collective bargaining rights.
 - Ohioans across the political spectrum overwhelmingly opposed Issue 2, rejecting it last November.
- Romney's already having trouble in the state. According to a recent PPP poll, Romney is viewed unfavorably by more than half of all Ohioans, moderates, independents, and women. Less than a third of all those groups view Romney favorably.

###

Romney Primary Wins Continue To Come at Severe Cost (2/29/12)

Key Point: Mitt Romney's primary victories continue to come at a severe cost to his general-election prospects.

- All of Mitt Romney's primary victories have come at severe costs to his general-election prospects.
- It was no different in his home state of Michigan, where Romney continued to turn off independents and failed to excite voters.
 - Romney spent twice as much as his opponents in the state his father governed, and that he won four years ago over the eventual nominee by 9 points.
 - But instead of easily winning this state, he's now limping into Super Tuesday badly damaged among the independent, moderate and working families he would need in November.
 - After winning less than a majority of the votes in Michigan, he is splitting its delegates almost equally with Rick Santorum.
- Romney didn't inspire voters with his vision for where he wants to take the country. He instead ran further to the right and relied on an overwhelmingly negative campaign.
 - Nine out of 10 Romney ads were negative as he again pursued a strategy of tearing down his opponent in order to win.
 - That's likely why:
 - Almost 40 percent of Republican voters can't say they'll definitely vote for the GOP nominee in November.
 - Almost 40 percent have strong reservations about their candidate.

- Not even half of Michigan's Republican primary voters strongly favored the candidate they voted for.
- Once again, Mitt Romney alienated middle-class voters, losing among those who make less than \$100,000 a year.
 - And for good reason: if Romney had his way, the American auto industry and the millions of jobs that rely on it would have disappeared, and our economy would have been further devastated.
 - He also laid out an economic plan that would cut taxes – mostly for corporations, billionaires and millionaires – by \$5 billion, explode the deficit over the next decade and force deep cuts to programs critical to middle-class security.
- Another reason why Romney's losing independent, moderate and working voters: his off-the-cuff comments reveal how out of touch he is with regular Americans. So far, Romney has:
 - Bragged about his wife driving "a couple of Cadillacs" while pandering to Michigan voters.
 - Called the \$374,000 he made last year in speaker's fees "not very much."
 - When asked if he's a NASCAR fan, answered that he has "great friends that are NASCAR team owners."
 - Said "corporations are people," that he's "not concerned about the very poor," that he's "unemployed," that he "likes being able to fire people," and that banks are feeling the same thing as struggling homeowners.
 - Please see [this new DNC video](#) on Romney.
- In Arizona, Romney and his allies outspent Santorum 5-to-1 while running further to the right. Romney confirmed he would be the most extreme nominee on immigration and alienating Hispanic voters he'll need to win in November. Romney has:
 - Called Arizona's divisive and extreme anti-immigrant law a "model" for the nation, even though it lets law enforcement randomly check documents and detain people without cause.
 - Promised to veto the DREAM Act and derided it as a "handout," even though it would let young immigrants who came here as children earn a path to citizenship by going to college or serving in the military.
 - Embraced the inhumane policy of encouraging "self-deportation," even though it would separate families that have contributed to their communities for a generation.

###

Romney Attacks Justice Sotomayor, Panders to Tea Party Extremes (2/29/12)

Key Point: Mitt Romney is pandering to the Tea Party in his attacks on Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

- Mitt Romney is attacking Rick Santorum for voting for Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the Supreme Court's first Latina justice. Romney is trying to use her as a political wedge, pandering to the extremes of his party and trying to court Tea Party voters.
- Romney has also derided the DREAM Act as a "handout," even though it would let young immigrants who came here as children earn a path to citizenship by going to college or serving in the military.
- Romney is his party's most extreme candidate on immigration, and he's on the wrong side of every issue important to the Latino community.

###

President Obama Calls on Congress to Repeal \$4 Billion Oil and Gas Subsidy (3/1/12)

Key Point: President Obama calls on Congress to repeal \$4 billion in needless taxpayer subsidies to oil and gas companies that are making record profits.

- President Obama is speaking in New Hampshire today about his sustained, all-of-the-above energy strategy that's reducing our dependence on foreign oil and helping families save at the pump. He's calling on Congress to repeal \$4 billion in needless taxpayer subsidies to oil and gas companies that are making record profits.
- The President knows that rising gas prices are hitting families hard. As long as America has been dependent on foreign oil, consumers have been subjected to unpredictable price swings at the pump.
- The President knows we can't just drill our way to lower gas prices and we won't solve this problem overnight. That's why he's focused on developing all of America's natural resources – domestic oil, gas, wind, solar and biofuels – and encouraging fuel efficiency so that we can reduce our dependence on foreign oil over time.
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###

Latest Romney Hypocrisy: Washington Connections and Taxpayer Dollars (3/2/12)

Key Point: Mitt Romney claims he's a Washington outsider, but a new video shows him giving a lecture on how to wring the federal government out of every taxpayer dollar available.

- Mitt Romney will say anything to get elected. He claims he's a Washington outsider, but Romney bragged about how his Washington connections helped get hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars for the 2002 Winter Olympics.
 - Please see [this ABC News story](#) on Romney's hypocrisy.
- Romney claims he's a Washington outsider. But as head of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Romney used his Washington connections to lobby aggressively for taxpayer dollars for the Games.
 - Romney once said he's "a big believer in getting money where the money is. And the money's in Washington."
 - He also said he learned from his "Olympic experience that if you have people that really understand how Washington works and have personal associations there, you can get money."
- Romney went to Salt Lake City after the organizing committee was tainted by an international bribery scandal and a huge budget deficit. The former chairman of the 2002 Games said "it was fairly obvious" that Romney wanted to exploit the games for political purposes.
- Romney sought and received more taxpayer dollars for the 2002 Winter Olympics than all other previous Olympic Games combined. And his Olympic earmarks didn't just pay for security as he claims. They included:
 - \$320 million for light rail.
 - \$8.9 million to improve forest and campsites.
- Romney made the 2002 Winter Olympics the most expensive Olympics in American history. It cost taxpayers \$1.3 billion. That's:
 - 996 percent more than the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.
 - 5,582 percent more than the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

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Romney Would Let Women's Employers Control Women's Health Decisions (3/2/12)

Key Point: Mitt Romney and the Blunt Amendment he supports would take women's health decisions out of their hands and give it to their bosses.

- This week Mitt Romney embraced the Blunt Amendment, which would severely restrict women's access to health care. Romney would take women's health decisions out of women's hands and give it to their bosses.
 - Please see [this DNC video](#) about Romney.

- The Blunt Amendment would let any employer deny their employees any type of health coverage because of that employer's own beliefs. It would let employers severely restrict women's access to any kind of health coverage, including contraception, pre-natal care, mammograms, cervical cancer screenings and more. Romney would take important health care decisions out of women's hands and into the hands of their bosses.
- While Romney may be in a race to the bottom with Rick Santorum to see who can pander most to the far right-wing, they do so at the expense of women's freedom to make decisions about their health. Romney's embrace of extreme policies like the Blunt Amendment would have real life consequences for millions of women.
- Romney also said he would have supported a so-called "Personhood amendment" in Massachusetts to define life as beginning at the moment of conception. It could have:
 - Banned all abortions, even in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother.
 - Likely banned many common forms of birth control, including the Pill, and fertility treatments like in-vitro fertilization.

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