

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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SUPREME COURT RULES THAT AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IS CONSTITUTIONAL

This week, the Supreme Court held that President Obama's health care reform is constitutional, affirming Americans' right to quality, affordable health care. The Court upheld the individual mandate along with all the reforms that ensure Americans, not their insurance companies, have control over their health care. The law is already helping millions of Americans and will help millions more in the years to come. The important thing now is to fully implement the law so that we can cut costs and ensure all Americans get the care they need.

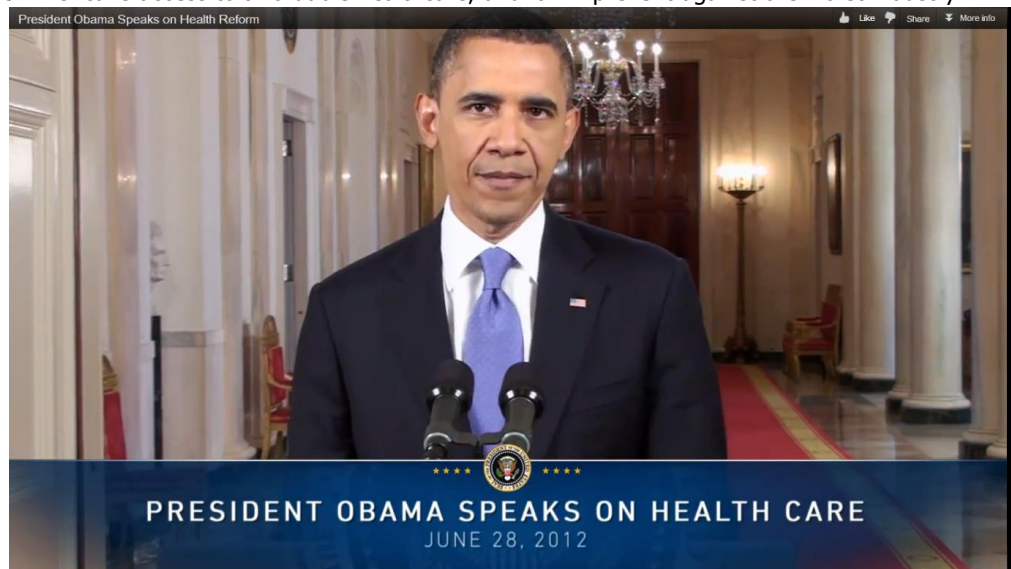
On Tuesday, First Lady Michelle Obama traveled to Illinois for the signing of the "Military Family Licensing Act," a legislative bill expediting the process of transferring licenses between states in professions such as nursing and teaching so that workers in these professions can get to work right away even if they have moved to a new state. On Wednesday, with the addition of 36 new states and local governments, more than 100 public-private partnerships have committed to President Obama's Better Buildings Challenge, an initiative created to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. On Friday, President Obama traveled to Colorado and ordered Federal aid in response to the state of emergency due to the devastating forest fires sweeping across the State.

This week, the President's campaign released three television advertisements titled, "Revealed – Ohio;" "Revealed – Iowa;" and "Revealed – Virginia" and a web video titled "America Doesn't Need an Outsourcing Pioneer in the Oval Office," highlighting Mitt Romney's history of outsourcing jobs. On Saturday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released a statement commemorating the fortieth anniversary of Title IX. On Tuesday, in response to Governor Romney's doubling down of support for Arizona's SB 1070, Congressman Xavier Becerra released a statement highlighting Romney's extreme positions on immigration.

The Supreme Court Rules Health Care Reform Is Constitutional

On Thursday, the Supreme Court ruled that the President's health care reform is constitutional. The law will strengthen health insurance for the more than 250 million Americans who already have health coverage, it will provide over 30 million more Americans access to affordable healthcare, and it will prevent against the worst industry abuses like discriminating against Americans with pre-existing conditions or raising premiums on women simply because of their gender. The law will also require free preventative care like well-checks and mammograms, it has allowed more than 3.1 young people to stay on their parents' insurance.

In addressing the nation, the President said, "[I]nsurance companies will no longer be able to discriminate against any American with a



preexisting health condition. They won't be able to charge you more just because you're a woman. They won't be able to bill you into bankruptcy. If you're sick, you'll finally have the same chance to get quality, affordable health care as everyone else. And if you can't afford the premiums, you'll receive a credit that helps pay for it."

The President also expressed the need for health care reform to ensure that those who are uninsured but can afford coverage are taking the responsibility to buy health insurance. President Obama said that taking personal responsibility is important for two reasons: "First, when uninsured people who can afford coverage get sick, and show up at the emergency room for care, the rest of us end up paying for their care in the form of higher premiums. And second, if you ask insurance companies to cover people with preexisting conditions, but don't require people who can afford it to buy their own insurance, some folks might wait until they're sick to buy the care they need -- which would also drive up everybody else's premiums."

In closing, the President said that now is the time for the country to move forward beyond the political battle of this debate and fully implement the law: "With today's announcement, it's time for us to move forward -- to implement and, where necessary, improve on this law. And now is the time to keep our focus on the most urgent challenge of our time: putting people back to work, paying down our debt, and building an economy where people can have confidence that if they work hard, they can get ahead. But today, I'm as confident as ever that when we look back five years from now, or 10 years from now, or 20 years from now, we'll be better off because we had the courage to pass this law and keep moving forward."

You can watch a video of the President's speech [here](#) and read the entire speech [here](#). Also click [here](#) to see how health reform benefits the American people.

First Lady Michelle Obama Travels To Illinois for the Signing of the State's Military Family Licensing Act

On Tuesday, First Lady Michelle Obama traveled to Illinois for the signing of the "Military Family Licensing Act", a legislative bill expediting the process of transferring licenses between states in professions such as nursing and



teaching, so that workers in these professions can get to work right away even if they have moved to a new state.

Surrounded by more than 250 military personnel and their spouses, the First Lady stood with Illinois Governor Pat Quinn as he signed the bill into state law. Four months ago while giving a speech at the National Governors Association meeting, the First Lady adopted the "Military Family Licensing Act" as part of her "Joining Forces" initiative. Joined by Dr. Jill Biden, she addressed the nation's governors asking them to adopt similar pro-military spousal legislation, and in the four months since, 12 states have passed similar legislation.

Following the signing, Mrs. Obama said, "earlier this year...We went to the Pentagon and we joined Secretary Panetta and General Dempsey to call on all 50 states to address this issue by the year 2014. And again, when our nation's governors came to the White House a couple of weeks after that meeting, we asked them to enact measures in their home states. And today, believe me, I am so proud to report that governors and legislatures across this country have answered this call. Back when we went to the Pentagon, only 11 states had addressed this issue at all. Only 11 states. But in the four months since then -- so just since February -- 11 more governors have signed legislation or executive orders. And seven more have legislation pending."

This legislation will directly affect more than 100,000 military spouses who hold licenses in professions like nursing and teaching, professions where someone is more likely to be out of work longer due to lack of portability between states.

You can read the First Lady's remarks [here](#).

President Obama's Better Buildings Challenge Hits 100 Partnerships

On Wednesday, with the addition of 36 new states and local governments, more than 100 public-private partnerships have committed to President Obama's Better Buildings Challenge, an initiative created to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The challenge, announced in December 2011, committed \$2 billion in public funding paired with an additional \$2 billion in private capital commitments to improve long-term energy consumption through structural upgrades to government offices, schools, and other industrial sectors.

With the goal of reducing energy consumption by over \$40 billion annually, the initiative provides the upfront costs of these upgrades to building owners who would not necessarily make the investments on their own. This investment plan encourages economic growth through public-private partnerships, creates jobs, saves money on energy efficiency, and encourages advancements in renewable energy.

Partners involved in the challenge include Starbucks and SUPERVALU, and public sector partners are demonstrating that participating in the challenge can be good for taxpayers. The Atlanta Civic Center recently received an efficiency face lift, and the project has already saved \$93,000 in utility bills.

President Obama Travels to Colorado. Declares Disaster Relief for Forest Fires

On Friday, President Obama traveled to Colorado to tour the devastating forest fires sweeping across that State. President Obama declared Colorado in a state of emergency and ordered Federal aid in response to the spreading wild fires. Fires have been spreading since June 9, 2012, causing more than 36,000 people to be evacuated in Colorado Springs alone.



President Obama remained positive stating, "I think what you see here is an example of outstanding coordination and cooperation between federal, state and local agencies. We have been putting everything we have into trying to deal with what's one of the worst fires that we've seen here in Colorado. And it's still early in the fire season, and we still got a lot more work to do. But because of the outstanding work that's been done, because of not only the coordination but also some unprecedented arrangements that have been made with military resources combined with the civil resources, we're starting to see progress. Obviously, as you saw in

the some of these subdivisions, the devastation is enormous. And our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families who have been affected.

"One of the things that I've tried to emphasize is that whether it's fires in Colorado or flooding in the northern parts of Florida, when natural disasters like this hit, America comes together. And we all recognize that there but for the grace of God, go I. We've got to make sure that we have each other's backs. And that spirit is what you're seeing in terms of volunteers, in terms of firefighters, in terms of government officials. Everybody is pulling together to try to deal with this situation."

Read the President's entire remarks [here](#) and read the President's Colorado Disaster Declaration [here](#).

Holding Republicans Accountable

This week, the Supreme Court upheld President Obama's Affordable Care Act, and as a result, millions more Americans have access to quality, affordable health care. With the Court's decision, all three branches of *government* have now agreed that President Obama's health care law is the right thing to do for the American people, and the important thing now is to fully implement the law so that we can cut costs and ensure all Americans get the care they need.

Yet Mitt Romney and Republicans in Congress want to keep refighting the political battles of the past. The individual mandate in Massachusetts—which Romney personally championed and signed into law—is almost exactly the same as Obamacare's similar requirement. But Mitt Romney says he wants to repeal Obamacare. He has said that he would 'kill it dead,' something that would hurt middle-class families, women, seniors and young Americans.

The fact of the matter is Romney would take away all of the benefits Obamacare provides millions of Americans. Because of Obamacare, insurance companies can't deny children coverage due to pre-existing conditions like cancer or asthma. More than 3 million young adults are able to stay on their parents' health care plans until the age of 26, and more than 5 million people got discounts on their prescription drugs while in the Medicare 'doughnut hole,' saving an average of more than \$600 a year on their prescription drugs. Obamacare will save middle class families up to \$2,300 a year on top of its largest health care tax cut in history, worth an average of \$4,800 to about 19 million middle class Americans. And we are making all of

this progress while strengthening Medicare and reducing the deficit by more than \$120 billion by 2021.

On Friday, the DNC provided highlights of the news Americans across the country are waking up to following the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act. Americans with pre-existing conditions now know that insurance companies won't be able to deny them coverage. Young Americans now know they can stay on their parents' health insurance while they're in school or after they graduate until they turn 26. This is good news for millions of Americans—yet Mitt Romney and the Republicans in Congress have a very different view. They'd rather re-fight the battles of the past and deny the security of health insurance for millions of Americans. The American people don't want to go backward with Mitt Romney and the GOP and undo a law that all three branches of government have now validated. The front pages below from papers around the country say it loud and clear: the Affordable Care Act is constitutional, it's the law and it's settled. It's time to move on.

This week, the President's campaign released three television advertisements titled, "[Revealed - Ohio](#)," "[Revealed - Iowa](#)," and,



"[Revealed - Virginia](#)" and a web video titled "[America Doesn't Need an Outsourcing Pioneer in the Oval Office](#)," highlighting Mitt Romney's history of outsourcing jobs. Mitt Romney has claimed that he knows how jobs are created, but while at Bain Capital he oversaw investments that shipped American jobs overseas. In fact, Bain Capital owned companies that were pioneers in the practice of outsourcing jobs. It's clear that Mitt Romney's real expertise is in corporate raiding and that his guiding philosophy was to maximize profits for himself and his partners at the expense of American jobs. While President Obama would end incentives to corporations that take jobs overseas, Mitt Romney would expand those incentives.

On Saturday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released a statement commemorating the fortieth anniversary of Title IX. She said:

"Today marks the 40th anniversary of Title IX, a federal law that mandates gender equality in education. Since 1972, the law has prohibited gender discrimination by federally-funded institutions and remains a powerful tool for women's advancements in education. This law has been incredibly effective in so many ways, from dealing with the problem of inequality in math and science education, to dramatically increasing the participation of female athletes at colleges and universities."

"As a mother of two girls myself, it is especially important to me that our daughters have all the same opportunities as our sons-- and on this important anniversary we should celebrate all the progress we've made and recommit ourselves to the work ahead."

On Tuesday, in response to Governor Romney's doubling down of support for Arizona's SB 1070, Congressman Xavier Becerra released a statement in English and Spanish. He said:

"Holding true to his title, Mitt Romney confirmed for the Latino community that he is still the most extreme presidential nominee of our time on the issue of immigration. By doubling down on his support for Arizona's discriminatory anti-immigrant law SB-1070, a majority of which was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States, Mitt Romney is proving that his agenda won't work. Mitt Romney just doesn't get it. If he wants to be President he needs to start acting presidential and stop appealing to the far right extreme in his party which is completely out of step with mainstream America."

[Key Issues in the News and Background](#)

HEALTH REFORM: Mitt Romney and Republicans Want to Refight Political Battles of the Past, Again Using Partisan Scare Tactics to Distort the Truth about Obamacare

Key Point: Mitt Romney and the Republicans want to refight political battles of the past and deny millions of Americans affordable health care. They're doubling down on distortions and partisan scare tactics, even trying to mislead people by shouting that the free rider penalty is a "tax." In reality, that penalty would affect only 1 percent of Americans and keep their medical costs from shifting to the rest of us – and it's the same policy Mitt Romney put in place in Massachusetts.

- **This week the Supreme Court ruled that Obamacare is constitutional.** It's already helping millions of Americans save money and live healthier lives, and will help millions more in the years to come. No American is losing coverage or going bankrupt just because they get sick, preexisting conditions are being covered, and millions of Americans will keep saving money on their premiums, preventive care and prescription drugs.
- **Mitt Romney and the Republicans are at it again.** Just like they did during the last health care debate, Mitt Romney and Republicans are again making up falsehoods and distorting health reform. They want to repeal it on "day one," refighting old political battles of the past and denying millions of Americans affordable health care.
- **Republican "Tax" Deception:** What Republicans call a "tax" is the penalty people must pay for failing to meet their responsibility to buy insurance if they can afford it, so their medical costs aren't shifted to the rest of us. The vast majority of Americans who responsibly carry coverage are completely unaffected by this penalty.

- President Obama has cut taxes by \$3,600 for the average middle-class family since taking office, and Republicans fought him nearly every step of the way.
- Mitt Romney closed factories and stores and shipped jobs overseas. Middle-class Americans know who is fighting for them.
- **Fiction vs. Fact:** Republicans' distortions and partisan scare tactics didn't stop health insurance reform before, but they still won't give up. We won't stop fighting back.
 - **Fiction:** "Government is taking over health care." **Fact:** Obamacare puts you and your doctors – not insurance companies or bureaucrats – in control of your health. It means insurers can't drop you because you get sick or hit a coverage cap.
 - **Fiction:** "Costs are going up." **Fact:** Obamacare lowers health care costs. It cuts waste in the system and requires insurance companies to issue rebates on if they spent too much of your premiums on administrative costs or CEO bonuses. Obamacare will save middle-class families up to \$2,300 a year.
 - **Fiction:** "You can't keep your health care." **Fact:** Obamacare won't take away your health insurance – it will only make your coverage stronger. It ends limits on coverage, lets young adults stay on their parents' plans until they turn 26 and makes sure your company can't drop you just because you get sick.
 - **Fiction:** "It's a massive tax increase." **Fact:** The Court ruled that free riders who can afford health insurance but chose not to buy it must pay a penalty through the tax code so costs aren't shifted to the rest of us. Romney put in place the same policy in Massachusetts, and only 1 percent of Americans are expected to pay this penalty. Obamacare is actually the largest-ever middle-class health care tax cut, which will be worth an average of about \$4,800 to 19 million Americans.
 - **Fiction:** "It will hurt small businesses." **Fact:** Obamacare doesn't force any small business to offer coverage to its workers. For many small businesses that want to, it provides generous tax credits to help them pay for it and creates exchanges that will level the playing field so small businesses can compete with larger ones.
- **Romney Would Take Away All of Obamacare's Benefits:**
 - **Banning Insurance Abuses:** Insurance companies can't drop you because you got sick, made a mistake on your application or hit an arbitrary cap on coverage. Already 105 million Americans no longer have lifetime caps on their coverage.
 - **Free Preventive Care:** 86 million Americans got more access to preventive care – from lifesaving cancer screenings to regular checkups to immunizations – covered by Medicare or their insurance without a co-pay or deductible.
 - **Rebates on Excessive Premiums:** By August 1, 12.8 million Americans will have gotten rebates from their insurance company because it spent too much of their premium dollars on administrative costs or CEO bonuses.
 - **Coverage for Young Americans Starting Their Careers:** 3.1 million young adults who would've been uninsured have coverage through their parents' plans.
 - **Discounts on Prescription Drugs:** More than 5 million people got discounts on their prescription drugs in the Medicare "doughnut hole" – each saving an average of more than \$600 last year.
 - **Covering Preexisting Conditions:** Starting in 2014, insurance companies won't be allowed to deny coverage or charge more based on health conditions, protecting the up to 129 million Americans with preexisting conditions. Already up to 17 million kids with preexisting conditions can't be denied coverage anymore.
 - **Affordable Coverage for Everyone:** People who couldn't afford insurance will either be able to get insurance through Medicaid or get generous tax credits that finally make coverage affordable. A typical middle-class family could pay up to 60 percent less for the same coverage – the largest-ever health care middle-class tax cut.
 - **Stronger Medicare:** Medicare will stay solvent through 2024, eight years longer than without Obamacare.
 - **Smaller Deficits:** Obamacare will reduce the deficit by more than \$120 billion by 2021.
- **Romney is Attacking the President for the Same Tax He Created in Massachusetts.** The individual mandate in Massachusetts – which Romney personally championed and signed into law – is almost exactly the same as Obamacare's similar requirement. Massachusetts' penalties are administered through the tax code, labeled "tax penalties" and are about the same as Obamacare's fines on free riders.

- **It's Time to Move On:** Americans want Washington to move past the political battle over health reform and get to work on the economy. Congress passed health reform, the President signed it, and yesterday the Court ruled that it's constitutional. It's time to move on and fully implement the law so we can cut costs and ensure all Americans get the care they need.

AMERICAN JOBS: New Campaign Ads, Vice President Biden Highlight Mitt Romney's History of Shipping American Jobs Overseas

Key Point: Mitt Romney's corporate-buyout firm invested in companies that pioneered shipping American jobs overseas. On the campaign trail, he claims to support American jobs, but as a corporate raider he made a fortune helping companies that sent jobs overseas. Romney doesn't care about American jobs.

- **New Ads:** This week the campaign released the first in a series of new ads in Ohio, Virginia and Iowa revealing Mitt Romney's history of sending American jobs overseas.
 - *Please see the new campaign ads, which will run in [Ohio](#), [Iowa](#) and [Virginia](#).*
- **Vice President Biden** is in Iowa today launching his Strengthening the Middle Class Tour. He's contrasting President Obama's commitment to bolstering middle-class security for Iowa families with Mitt Romney's history of shipping American jobs overseas.
- **Corporate Raider:** Mitt Romney made a fortune helping companies that sent American jobs overseas to countries like China and India. His economic philosophy put maximizing profits for himself and his investors before workers, companies and communities – even if it eliminated American jobs.
- **Campaign Hypocrisy:** Mitt Romney has campaigned all over the country and claimed that he supports American jobs and that he would advocate for them as President. But as a corporate raider, Romney and his partners at Bain Capital actively helped several companies eliminate American jobs and ship them overseas.
- **Shipping Jobs Overseas:** Romney and his partners at Bain Capital helped several firms ship American jobs overseas. They bought or invested in companies like:
 - [Stream International](#), which rejected opening call centers in the United States in favor of opening them in India and Ireland.
 - [Modus Media](#), which cut jobs in California and Washington State while expanding in foreign countries like Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, Ireland, Mexico and China.
 - [GT Bicycles](#), a California-based bicycle manufacturer that relied on Asian labor and had two large product recalls.
 - [SMTC](#), a Denver-based electronics manufacturer that laid off more than 1,500 workers and sent jobs from Denver to Mexico.
- **Romney would encourage sending jobs overseas if elected President.** He would eliminate U.S. taxes on companies' foreign profits, giving them more incentive to move offshore. He'd also raise taxes on hardworking families to pay for budget-busting tax cuts for the wealthiest. Romney believes we should join the race to the bottom to compete with countries like China for the cheapest labor with the fewest benefits.

AMERICAN JOBS: In Iowa, Vice President Biden Warned Americans about Mitt Romney's History of Shipping American Jobs Overseas

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- **Vice President Biden** is in Iowa this week continuing his Strengthening the Middle Class Tour. He's contrasting President Obama's commitment to bolstering middle-class security for Iowa families with Mitt Romney's history of shipping American jobs overseas.
- **Corporate Raider:** Last week the *Washington Post* revealed that Mitt Romney made a fortune helping companies that sent American jobs overseas to countries like China and India. His economic philosophy put maximizing profits for himself and his investors before workers, companies and communities – even if it eliminated American jobs.

- Please see [this Washington Post article](#) headlined "Mitt Romney's Bain Capital invested in companies that moved jobs overseas."
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