

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

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President Obama: "Now is the Time to do Something about Gun Violence"



On Monday, President Obama traveled to Connecticut where he met with and addressed families of the children and teachers who died at Sandy Hook Elementary in December. The President assured the families that America has not forgotten our commitment to reducing gun violence and asked for their help in calling on Congress to take action.

"Your families still grieve in ways most of us can't comprehend. But so many of you have used that grief to make a difference -- not just to honor your own children, but to protect the lives of all of our children. So many of you have mobilized, and organized, and petitioned your elected officials ... as citizens determined to right something gone wrong.

"And last week, here in Connecticut, your elected leaders responded. The Connecticut legislature, led by many of the legislators here today, passed new measures to protect more of our children and our communities from gun violence. And Governor Malloy signed that legislation into law.

"So I want to be clear. You, the families of Newtown, people across Connecticut, you helped make that happen. Your voices, your determination made that happen. Obviously, the elected leaders did an extraordinary job moving it forward, but it couldn't have happened if they weren't hearing from people in their respective districts, people all across the state. That's the power of your voice."

President Obama said that Congress will only act and make the responsible choice to protect our children if the American people stand up and speak out. Urging all Americans to make their voices heard and call on Congress, the President said:

"The day Newtown happened was the toughest day of my presidency. But I've got to tell you, if we don't respond to this, that will be a tough day for me, too. Because we've got to expect more from ourselves, and we've got to expect more from Congress. We've got to believe that every once in a while, we set politics aside and we just do what's right. We've got to believe that.

"And if you believe that, I'm asking you to stand up. If you believe in the right to bears arms, like I do, but think we should prevent an irresponsible few from inflicting harm -- stand up. Stand up."

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

First Lady Obama Delivers Remarks on Gun Violence

On Thursday, First Lady Michelle Obama traveled to Chicago where she spoke to the Public Safety Action Committee -- a new private sector effort aimed at curbing the city's youth violence. The First Lady challenged the business and community leaders attending the event to work together to support and open up opportunities for Chicago's young people so that they can meet their full potential and lead meaningful lives.

Mrs. Obama painted a devastating picture of the challenges facing too many children in Chicago, where simply standing on your own front porch can put you in harm's way and funerals for teenagers have become far too frequent. She spoke about the incredible odds stacked up against Chicago's young people. And in a very emotional moment, she spoke about Hadiya Pendleton, the 15 year old whose funeral the First Lady attended in February.



The First Lady said:

"Those are the odds that so many young people are facing in this city -- young people like Hadiya Pendleton, whose funeral I attended back in February. And we all know Hadiya's story. She was 15 years old, an honor student at King College Prep. And she came from a good family -- two devoted parents, plenty of cousins, solid godparents and grandparents, an adoring little brother. The Pendletons are hardworking people. They're churchgoing folks. And Hadiya's mother did everything she could for her daughter. She enrolled her in every activity you could imagine -- cheerleading, majorettes, the praise dance ministry -- anything to keep her off the streets and keep her busy.

"And as I visited with the Pendleton family at Hadiya's funeral, I couldn't get over how familiar they felt to me. Because what I realized was Hadiya's family was just like my family. Hadiya Pendleton was me, and I was her. But I got to grow up, and go to Princeton and Harvard Law School, and have a career and a family and the most blessed life I could ever imagine.

"And Hadiya? Oh, we know that story. Just a week after she performed at my husband's inauguration, she went to a park with some friends and got shot in the back because some kid thought she was in a gang. Hadiya's family did everything right, but she still didn't have a chance. And that story -- the story of Hadiya's life and death -- we read that story day after day, month after month, year after year in this city and around this country...

"This kind of violence is what so many young people like Hadiyah Pendleton are dealing with every single day. And those two boys charged with her shooting -- this is the violence they were facing as well. And you have to wonder: What if, instead of roaming around with guns, boys like them had access to a computer lab or a community center or some decent basketball courts? Maybe everything would have turned out differently."

Watch the First Lady's complete remarks [here](#).

President Obama's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget



On Wednesday, President Obama sent his Budget for Fiscal Year 2014 to Congress. President Obama's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget shows we can create jobs, make critical investments to strengthen the middle class, and grow the economy while cutting the deficit in a balanced manner.

The President said:

"To make America a magnet for good jobs, this budget invests in new manufacturing hubs to help turn regions left behind by globalization into global centers of high-tech jobs. We'll spark new American innovation and industry with cutting-edge research like the initiative I announced to map

the human brain and cure disease. We'll continue our march towards energy independence and address the threat of climate change. And our Rebuild America Partnership will attract private investment to put construction workers back on the job rebuilding our roads, our bridges and our schools, in turn attracting even more new business to communities across the country.

"To help workers earn the skills they need to fill those jobs, we'll work with states to make high-quality preschool available to every child in America. And we're going to pay for it by raising taxes on tobacco products that harm our young people. It's the right thing to do.

"We'll reform our high schools and job training programs to equip more Americans with the skills they need to compete in the 21st century economy. And we'll help more middle-class families afford the rising cost of college.

"To make sure hard work is rewarded, we'll build new ladders of opportunity into the middle class for anybody who is willing to work hard to climb them. So we'll partner with 20 of our communities hit hardest by the recession to help them improve housing, and education, and business investment. And we should make the minimum wage a wage you can live on -- because no one who works full-time should have to raise his or her family in poverty.

Read the President's full remarks [here](#).

Father Emil Kapaun Receives Medal of Honor

On Thursday, President Obama posthumously awarded our nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, to Father Emil Kapaun. Kapaun was an Army Chaplain from Kansas who served in the US Army during the Korean War and became known to many with whom he served as a saint, or a "shepherd in boots."

In a heartfelt tribute, the President shared Kapaun's story and spoke of his bravery during the Korean War.



The President said:

"That's when Chinese forces entered the war with a massive surprise attack -- perhaps 20,000 soldiers pouring down on a few thousand Americans. In the chaos, dodging bullets and explosions, Father Kapaun raced between foxholes, out past the front lines and into no-man's land -- dragging the wounded to safety. When his commanders ordered an evacuation, he chose to stay -- gathering the injured, tending to their wounds. When the enemy broke through and the combat was hand-to-hand, he carried on -- comforting the injured and the dying, offering some measure of peace as they left this Earth."

Kapaun gave his life for his country at a death camp in Korea. President Obama honored his sacrifice during the ceremony, which had in attendance members of Kapaun's family.

The President said:

"This is the valor we honor today -- an American soldier who didn't fire a gun, but who wielded the mightiest weapon of all, a love for his brothers so pure that he was willing to die so that they might live."

Rep. Robin Kelly Sworn in



On Thursday, Congresswoman Robin Kelly was sworn in as a Democratic representative from Illinois' 2nd district. Congresswoman Kelly easily won a special election to fill the seat on Tuesday.

After being sworn in by Speaker John Boehner, Congresswoman Kelly addressed her colleagues on the House floor according to tradition.

The Congresswoman said:

"I ran for Congress so that I could work to bring about a safer, less violent and more prosperous future, one in which our children can grow up without the fear of gun violence."

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz's Statement on National Equal Pay Day

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement on National Equal Pay Day, which was Tuesday:

"In November, women overwhelmingly supported President Obama—and that's because as women we knew that President Barack Obama has and always will fight for us. This is why on National Equal Pay Day, alongside President Obama, we must rededicate ourselves to the fight for equality and understand that our work is far from finished. Because these issues are not just women's issues; they are issues for all of our families.

"With more women acting as their family's breadwinners and accounting for nearly half of our country's work force, families everywhere are feeling the effects of this inequity. Women are earning 23% less than their male counterparts, a figure that adds up fast. Over the course of a woman's career this gap will result in a loss of about \$380,000. This gap is even greater for Latinas and African American women. How can we continue to let women get paid less for similar work when the livelihoods of so many families rely on the paychecks of women? Our families and our economy can't afford being shortchanged.

"This is why the President has been fighting for women's economic security from day one. He made it clear this was a top priority when the first bill he signed was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, ensuring woman can fight for equal pay for equal work. He has cracked down on equal pay law violations wherever they occur and continues to call on the Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, a measure I originally cosponsored.

"Women chose to stand with our President in November because he's always stood with us. And when so many Republicans in Congress have turned their backs to the disparities women face every day and tried to push us backward, President Obama has always fought to move forward.

"With him as President we continue to move forward, but even as we do so, we know there is so much left to do. We must do better—we must achieve true economic equality for the sake of our families, our daughters and our country."

Issues in the News

Talking Points: The President's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget

- President Obama's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget shows we can create jobs, make critical investments to strengthen the middle class, and grow the economy while cutting the deficit in a balanced manner.
- The President believes that a rising and thriving middle class is the best investment we can make and the true engine for America's economic growth. He remains focused on three fundamental questions: How do we bring more jobs to America? How do we equip our workers with the skills they need to do 21st Century jobs? How do we ensure an honest day's work guarantees a decent living? The FY 2014 Budget is the President's plan to answer these questions.
- To once again make America a magnet for jobs, the Budget invests in clean energy, high-tech manufacturing and innovation, and infrastructure, while cutting red tape to help businesses prosper and grow. To give workers skills they need to compete in the global economy, it invests in education from pre-school to job training. To make sure we reward hard work, the Budget raises the minimum wage to \$9 an hour.
- These initiatives are part of a comprehensive plan that reduces the deficit and puts America on a sound fiscal course. Every new initiative in the Budget is fully paid for, so it we will not add a single dime to the deficit.
- The Budget also includes President Obama's compromise to House Speaker Boehner to achieve another \$1.8 trillion in deficit reduction in a balanced way. This \$1.8 trillion combined with the deficit reduction

President Obama has already signed into law will exceed the target of \$4 trillion in deficit reduction over the next ten years while still strengthening the middle class and growing the economy.

- President Obama included this compromise offer in his budget as a demonstration of his willingness to make tough choices and work with anyone who is serious about finding common ground to further reduce the deficit.

KEY BUDGET FACTS

- Creates jobs through responsibly paid for investments in education, manufacturing, clean energy, infrastructure, and small business.
- Includes an additional \$1.8 trillion in deficit reduction over ten years, bring the total deficit reduction achieved to \$4.3 trillion.
- Includes more than \$2 in spending cuts for every \$1 of new revenue by closing tax loopholes and reducing tax benefits for the wealthiest Americans.
- Reduces the deficit to 2.8% of GDP by 2016 and 1.7% by 2023 with debt declining as a share of the economy, all while protecting critical investments we need to create jobs and strengthen the middle class.
- Includes \$400 billion in health savings by cracking down on waste and fraud to strengthen Medicare for years to come.

Full Fact Sheet: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/overview>

Full Budget: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget>