

# THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

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## President Obama Signs Student Loan Legislation



Last week, President Obama signed a bill into law to cut interest rates on nearly all new student loans, making college more affordable for millions of students who depend on federal student loans to attain a higher education.

Throughout his time in office, President Obama has focused his attention on helping make a college education more affordable for middle class families. Over the past decade, tuition and fees have

skyrocketed, squeezing American families. A highly educated workforce is a prerequisite for growing jobs and strengthening the economy.

Under the law almost 11 million student will save money on new loans. Undergraduate students saw their rates slashed in half, and graduate students' rates dropped 1.4 percent. The signing of this law will result in over \$1,500 of savings for typical undergraduate student.

President Obama recognizes that educating the next generation must be a priority, and with this act, he affirmed this value.

Watch a video from the bill signing [here](#).

## President Obama Addresses Disabled American Veterans Convention



On Saturday, President Obama and the First Lady traveled to Orlando where they spoke at the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) National Convention. For 92 years, the DAV has served disabled veterans and their families.

The First Lady spoke about the joy she has experienced when meeting with veterans and families like those represented in the audience.

Mrs. Obama said:

"I have laughed with your children at barbecues. I've gone to baby showers with

spouses. I've learned so much during my many visits to military bases across this country. I've even smashed a champagne bottle to christen a Coast Guard cutter."

Mrs. Obama shared inspiring stories of the many heroes she has met through her work with the Joining Forces Initiative who were injured in combat and continued to be a source of courage and strength for their loved ones when they returned home. Introducing the President, the First Lady reminded the audience that they have a Commander-in-Chief who carries their stories as a source of strength and works hard every day to ensure that they receive the support they have earned.

President Obama addressed multiple generations of wounded warriors, recounting national conflicts, and commending them for their valor and dedication to American ideals.

Turning to the work of the DAV, President Obama said:

"I think of all the inspiring wounded warriors that Michelle and I have met – their resilience, their resolve, their determination to push through and to carry on. That's the fighting spirit of our wounded warriors. That's the spirit of DAV – dedicated not just to your own recovery, but to taking care of each other. Every day you work to ensure that America is fulfilling its promises to our men and women who have served. That's your mission. And I want you to know it is my mission, too."

President Obama spoke about the steps the administration has taken to ensure the support that all veterans are entitled to, for years to come. The President focused on five key priorities: resources for aiding America's veterans must continue to remain available, healthcare for veterans must be robust and easily accessible, the backlog must be eliminated, the campaign to end veteran homelessness must continue, and we must provide veterans with every opportunity to achieve success in the workplace and in the classroom.

President Obama concluded his address by saying, "So long as I'm the United States' President, I will make it my mission to make sure that America is right there beside you every step of the way."

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

## **Commemorating the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Social Security**

Wednesday marked the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signing the Social Security Act into law. DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz commemorated this important event in the following post to the DNC blog:

### **SOCIAL SECURITY: 78 Years Later, a Promise to Seniors and the Vulnerable that Endures** **By DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz**

Seventy-eight years ago today, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law, making a promise to America's seniors to help them retire with the dignity and security they earned through a lifetime of hard work. Social Security has provided millions of Americans a level of stability for not only retirees, but also for individuals with disabilities and those receiving survivor benefits.

Today, I am proud to stand with President Obama as we continue to fulfill the promise made so many years ago. Democrats remain committed to preserving and protecting Social Security for millions of seniors across the country and for future generations of Americans. We believe that a sustainable retirement does not just have to be a benefit for the privileged few, but for all hard-working Americans. This assistance helps make sure seniors can pay their bills, buy groceries, and purchase life-saving medications.

Seventy-eight years later, Social Security continues to ensure Americans can live with the dignity they deserve—part of the vision that if you work hard and put in your time, you have earned the basic benefits of a secure future. I stand by the President as we work to continue that vision, and live up to the promises made to our nation's seniors by fighting to strengthen and protect their hard-earned benefits.

## **DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz's Statement on Newark Mayor Cory Booker's Win in New Jersey U.S. Senate Democratic Primary**

Tuesday night, Newark Mayor Cory Booker won the Democratic Primary for the United States Senate. DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement congratulating him and thanking the other Democratic candidates for their service to New Jersey:

"I want to congratulate Mayor Booker on his victory in tonight's Democratic primary for US Senate. I also want to thank my colleagues Frank Pallone, Rush Holt as well as Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver for their dedication to the issues that affect middle class families in New Jersey and across the country.

"Tonight, voters in New Jersey have chosen as the Democratic nominee someone who has shown he's not afraid of challenges. He's shown he can get things done in Newark and this fall voters in New Jersey will send him to Washington to get things done in the Senate.

"Throughout Cory Booker's career he's never run away from big problems. He stood up to the gun lobby and will be another voice for common sense gun control like expanded background checks for gun purchases, a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity clips. He believes women deserve equal pay for equal work, that a woman's health care decisions are between her and her doctor, and that access to quality preventative care is a family priority.

"That's why New Jersey voters need Cory Booker in Washington. He'll fight for New Jersey families in the Garden State to deliver a better bargain for the middle class."