



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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[At RNC Meeting, GOP Doubles Down on Anti-Women's Health Agenda](#)

This week, the Republican National Committee held their annual winter meeting. The event featured a host of GOP politicians pushing far right policies that alienate many groups, including women.

RNC Chairman Reince Priebus promised his party was going to be "[fresh and new](#)," but today, the RNC members passed a resolution encouraging Republican candidates to stand their ground with extreme positions on abortion, aiming to take personal decisions out of the hands of women.

Following losses in 2012, and in 2013 in Virginia (helped by massive gender gaps), Republicans have decided their new plan is to talk **more** about abortion and restricting the rights of women to make their own health care choices.

And if an institutional policy wasn't enough to alienate women, speaking at the RNC meeting on Thursday former Arkansas governor [Mike Huckabee made comments](#) that Democrats think women need government provided birth control "because they cannot control their libido or their reproductive system."

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz immediately issued this response: "Mike Huckabee has no idea what he's talking about. If this is the GOP rebrand a year later then all they've gotten is a year older."

Watch the DNC's video of Huckabee's comments, just the latest example of the GOP's failed rebrand, [here](#).



DNC Response to Christie Bullying the Lead Bridgegate Investigator

On Sunday, Chris Christie's office [issued a release](#) attacking one of the New Jersey Legislature's investigators in charge of looking into the wrongdoings in Christie's Administration. This rhetoric just adds to the long strain of bully culture apparent in Christie's inner circle.

In response, DNC National Press Secretary Michael Czin released the following statement:

"Yesterday Christie's office attacked the Mayor of Hoboken and the media for their reporting on Christie's ongoing scandals.

"Today, Christie's team is using state resources to try to bully the lead legislative investigator into stepping down (see below). Isn't this exactly the type of conduct that got Governor Christie into trouble in the first place?

"If it had not been for the New Jersey legislature's methodical work, Chris Christie would have the public believe that his office had nothing to do with the lane closures. Not surprisingly, the legislator Christie launched an attack against today is one of the very people who found the truth that Christie ignored for four months.

"In last week's state of the state address, Christie said, 'Without a doubt, we will cooperate with all appropriate inquiries to ensure this breach of trust does not happen again.' It's time for Christie to stop the bullying, live up to his own word and face the consequences – whatever they are."

In the States

- On Saturday, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Florida Democratic Party Officials held press events in Orlando and Fort Lauderdale to respond to Governor Christie's Florida trip and to discuss Rick Scott's failed record. With Christie in the midst of the Bridgegate scandal, he traveled to Florida to campaign for the equally controversial Florida Governor, Rick Scott. Both national and local press attended the press conferences, click on these headlines to read about the events: [As Chris Christie hides in FL, Debbie Wasserman Schultz trashes him in two major media markets](#) | [Debbie Wasserman Schultz, other Democrats 'welcome' Chris Christie to Florida](#) | [For Chris Christie, even in Florida, no escaping 'Bridgegate'](#) | ["Scandal Plagued": DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz greets Chris Christie's country club visit with Gov. Rick Scott \(Video\)](#)
- Throughout the week, Wisconsin Democrats ramped up their efforts to push back on Scott Walker's failed policies that he highlighted in his State of the State. The party offered several "fact checks" on Scott's claims about jobs, the state surplus, and healthcare. Click [here](#) to read the releases.
- In Iowa, the Democratic Party focused their week on the 2014 precinct caucuses. The Democrats showed that focusing on [unity and inclusiveness](#) is the right direction for the party to continue in while Republicans remain in disarray. After the caucuses, Iowa Democratic Party Chairman Scott Brennan released this [statement](#).
- In Michigan, the Democratic Party kept reminding Michiganders that [Terri Lynn Land and Gov Snyder still have not condemned Michigan RNC member Dave Agema](#) who has repeatedly used hate speech against Muslims and the LGBT community. Read the party's press releases on the subject [here](#).

[President Obama Establishes "White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault"](#)

On Wednesday, President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum establishing the "White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault" to address rising rates of sexual assaults on college campuses.

The President created the Task Force with the objectives of "sharing best practices, and increasing transparency, enforcement, public awareness, and interagency coordination to prevent violence and support survivors."

President Obama said that, while there are a number of Federal laws aimed at preventing sexual assault on campuses, the rates of assault are still too high.

He said, "Reports show, however, that institutions' compliance with these Federal laws is uneven and, in too many cases, inadequate. Building on existing enforcement efforts, we must strengthen and address compliance issues and provide institutions with additional tools to respond to and address rape and sexual assault. . . . Therefore, I am directing the Office of the Vice President and the White House Council on Women and Girls to lead an interagency effort to address campus rape and sexual assault, including coordinating Federal enforcement efforts by executive departments and agencies (agencies) and helping institutions meet their obligations under Federal law."

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



[Weekly Address: Make 2014 a Year of Action](#)

In his weekly address President Obama highlighted the growing job opportunities for the middle class in 2014.

He called on Congress to make 2014 a "breakthrough" year to create good jobs with good wages. He said that this can be done in two ways: through building infrastructure and fixing the broken immigration system.



President Obama said, "It's part of my push not only to make America home to more high-tech manufacturing – but to make America more attractive for the good jobs that a growing middle class requires. . . . Where Congress isn't acting, I'll act on my own to put opportunity within reach for anyone who's willing to work for it."

To watch the video click [here](#).