



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

March 28, 2014

One Weekend Left – Get the Facts, Get Covered

With one weekend left before the open enrollment deadline for the Affordable Care Act, and with more than 6 million individuals already enrolled through the exchanges, DNC Communications Director Mo Elleithee is out with a new Factivists [video](#). The video clears up the latest myths Republicans are spreading about Obamacare and arms DNC supporters with the facts in these crucial next few days.

There is one thing Republicans have been perfectly clear on – their plan for health care in America – repeal. They are so obsessed with repealing the health care law that they were willing to shut the government down and spend their time voting - more than 50 times - trying to take us back to a broken system. All of this, instead of voting on measures that would grow the middle class and expand opportunity for all like meaningful immigration reform, raising the minimum wage, and extending unemployment benefits. The exchanges have hit 6 million enrollees earlier than the deadline, and yet, Republicans refuse to stop even after the American people have been clear that [they are not interested in repeal](#).



Check out the video [here](#) for the real story behind the GOP's latest Obamacare myths and click [here](#) to see and share our [graphic](#) seen below.



GOP MYTH: OBAMACARE IS A "DISASTER" **THE FACTS TELL A DIFFERENT STORY**



AMERICANS
HAVE SIGNED UP
FOR COVERAGE

100 MILLION+
AMERICANS
HAVE ACCESS TO FREE
PREVENTIVE CARE SERVICES



FOR WOMEN,
CONTRACEPTION &
CANCER SCREENINGS
ARE COVERED WITH
NO COPAY

7 MILLION+ SENIORS
HAVE SAVED AN AVERAGE OF
more than \$1000 each
ON MEDICATION



17 MILLION KIDS
WITH PREEXISTING CONDITIONS
can no longer
BE DENIED INSURANCE

YOUNG PEOPLE
CAN STAY ON THEIR
FAMILIES' PLANS



[DNC hits Christie for million dollar report with no new information](#)

On Thursday, Chris Christie's lawyers issued a report, Christie did no wrongdoing in Bridgegate. With ongoing investigations by the Port Authority, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the New Jersey Legislature, Christie spent a million dollars in taxpayer resources to conduct his own investigation that many are calling a "[whitewash](#)."

Christie's office hand-picked the investigator, and did not interview the key figures they blame for the lane closings. Journalists and editorial boards around the country rejected the report.

Here are some of the twitter reactions straight out of the announcement:

Blake Hounshell, Deputy Editor at Politico: "This Christie report cleared up absolutely no mysteries for me. Anyone else?" [[TWEET](#)]

"So at the end of the day, did the taxpayers of New Jersey just spend a million dollars to help one man?" **Michael D. Celock**, [Huffington Post](#).

Kate Zernike, National Correspondent at NYT: "NJ Taxpayers, you paid \$1 million+ for this: 'It is sad Bridget Kelly did what she did. It is sad David Wildstein did what he did.' Sad." [[TWEET](#)]

Jan Hefler, Philadelphia Inquirer: "GWB report issued by Christie's lawyers failed to interview key players it blames: @AndrewSeidman; <http://t.co/KeKOYPonFV> (use C93D) #inq" [[TWEET](#)]

Ben White, POLITICO Chief Economic Correspondent: "It's like saying: 'My son Jacob's investigation into whether he kicked his brother found that no, he did not kick his brother.'" [[TWEET](#)]

Andrew Kaczynski, BuzzFeed: "Chris Christie's Lawyer Says Chris Christie Did Nothing Wrong" <http://www.buzzfeed.com/andrewkaczynski/chris-christies-lawyer-says-chris-christie-did-nothing-wrong...> " [[TWEET](#)]

Ari Melber, Co-host of MSNBC's The Cycle: "So far, Christie internal investigation briefing is heavier on conclusions than specific evidence." [[TWEET](#)]

And the focus on the report didn't die out quickly. Here are just a few of the headlines and most poignant quotes since the release of the report:

"But while Christie's lawyers profess to have "gotten to the truth," here's all this million-dollar report really tells us: They haven't found evidence that he's guilty. Let's see what the U.S. attorney's investigation turns up." **Star-Ledger Editorial Board**, [3/27/14](#)

"This glossy political absolution cost the taxpayers of New Jersey more than \$1 million in legal fees. . . . We can now add this expensive whitewash to the other evidence of trouble in Mr. Christie's administration." **New York Times Editorial Board**, [3/27/14](#).

"The completed report raises more questions than it buries. What it also buries is hope that this internal investigation might rise above the governor's self-interests." **Bergen Record Editorial Board**, [3/28/14](#)

"An independent investigation of the GWB scandal should read as neutral; its prime objective would not be to exonerate the governor but to discover the complete truth, wherever that leads. That did not happen." **Bergen Record Editorial Board**, [3/28/14](#)



[New Factivists Video on Contraception Benefit Cases](#)

On the day of oral arguments at the Supreme Court in *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Specialties v. Sebelius*, DNC Deputy Communications Director Lily Adams shared this video with supporters to help spread the facts on the case. This video, part of the DNC's Factivist program, arms supporters with the information they need to stand up for women's right to access basic preventive care with no copay and to fight back against misleading Republican attacks.



Along with the video, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement on the case saying, "No woman should have her access to contraception cut off based on her boss' opinion. An overwhelming majority of American women use contraception to stay healthy and plan their families, and it should be treated like any other preventive care. The overall goal of the Affordable Care Act is to make quality health care affordable and accessible for all Americans, no matter where you work or what your gender.

"A rejection of the contraception benefit would only take us back in time, crippling the progress we've made in the four years since the Affordable Care Act became law. As Democrats, we respect the right of all Americans to exercise their religion, but we do not believe that for-profit employers should have the right to impose their religious beliefs on their employees. These groups and the Republicans who support them are on the wrong side of the issues that are most important to women. From opposing equal pay legislation, to delaying reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, to insisting politicians make medical decisions that belong between a woman and her doctor, the GOP's agenda is as out of touch as ever."

Visit <http://factivists democrats.org/> for more information or to sign up by helping us spread the facts.

[Republicans refuse to take immigration to a vote, while saying otherwise](#)

A year after their [failed Autopsy Report](#), Republicans continue to insist they're reaching out to Hispanic Americans, while blocking commonsense immigration reform. Meanwhile, Democrats are pushing to fix our broken immigration system, calling on Speaker Boehner to hold a vote and put his money where his mouth is. But if this week is any indicator, Republicans are continuing to give lip service while failing to back it up with concrete action.

Here's what Republicans *said* this week on immigration reform at a Hispanic Chamber event in Washington:

- **[Wisconsin Rep. and former GOP vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan](#)**: It is **"not a question of if we fix our broken immigration laws, it's really a question of when."**
- **[Texas Senator John Cornyn](#)**: According to NBC, he "kicked off the summit **with emphatic support on immigration reform**, citing the human toll inaction has inflicted."
- **[Florida Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart](#)**: Immigration reform is an "800-pound gorilla" and **failing to act on reform is "a disservice to millions of families."**
- **[RNC Chair Reince Preibus](#)**: "We have to do something" on immigration reform.

But here's what Republicans *did* this week on immigration reform:

Not a single House Republican supported [allowing a vote on immigration](#) in the House.

The divide on this issue couldn't be clearer: one party just talks and talks, while the other walks the walk.

In the States

- On Thursday, Wisconsin Democrats asked for answers from Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker about his plans to turn around the low numbers of economic growth and job creation in the state. Democrat gubernatorial candidate Mary Burke announced her "[Invest for Success](#)" plan for job creation this week, leading the party to have several questions for Walker about how his failed record matches up. Click here to read the [questions and the full release](#).
- On Tuesday, New Hampshire state representatives signed a bi-partisan bill into [law that expands Medicaid](#) coverage to Granite State citizens. New Hampshire Democratic Party Chair released the following statement, "Today's bipartisan passage of Medicaid Expansion in the House is a tremendous step forward for our state, and will improve the lives of 58,000 Granite Staters."
- Several state leaders are helping the DNC get the word out about the Voter Expansion Project. Individuals from Maryland, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico along with the DNC held calls to promote the project in response to Republicans like Scott Walker, [who are working to limit early voting](#) and taking away the right to vote from Wisconsin Residents. In addition, women officials from Maryland, Ohio, and Texas held a call this week discussing the benefits of Voter Expansion for women. Click on these headlines to read more about the states advocating: [Rawlings-Blake, DNC push Voter Expansion Project](#) | [Democrats Seek to Help Women Lift Every Voice and Vote](#) | [Arizona Democrats launch voter expansion project](#) | [Dems say they're going on offense over voter access](#) | [Dems like Utah same-day voter registration, even if it helps GOP](#)
- This week, the Texas Democratic Party called on Lt. Governor David Dewhurst to initiate an investigation into fair pay practices in all state agencies, after allegations of pay discrimination in Attorney General Greg Abbott's office. According to the San Antonio Express, "the average salary for 343 men is \$79,464 while the average salary for 379 women is \$73,649...Of seven different classifications of assistant attorneys general, the average salary for men is higher than the average salary for women in six of them, with the difference ranging from \$647 to \$4,452." [San Antonio Express News, [3/18/14](#)]. In response to the news, Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa issued the following statement: "If Greg Abbott has committed wage discrimination, it would be a violation of federal law. Everyone deserves fair pay regardless of race or gender and Texas needs new leaders that will fight for the economic well being of all Texans." Read the party's full release [here](#).

President Obama travels Abroad for Meetings with International Leaders

This week, President Obama traveled in Europe to meet with world leaders and mobilize the international community. At the end of the trip he will have visited the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, the Holy See, and Saudi Arabia. The White House is keeping a travel log including videos and pictures. Click [here](#) to view those on the White House website.

On Monday and Tuesday, in the Netherlands, President Obama participated in bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Mark Rutte of the Netherlands, President Xi Jinping of China, King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed bin Zayed of the United Arab Emirates, President Park Geun-Hye of the Republic of Korea and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and participated in a Nuclear Security Summit and met with G-7 leaders to discuss Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

On Wednesday, President Obama traveled to Brussels, Belgium to participate in more meetings with international leaders and traveled to Rome, Italy.

On Thursday, President Obama visited His Holiness Pope Francis in Vatican City. The two exchanged gifts and had a private meeting. Click [here](#) to watch a video of the President's trip to Italy and Vatican City.



[First Lady Travels to China](#)

This week, First Lady Michelle Obama traveled with her daughters and mother to China to explore cultural and historical sites, and discuss the importance of education around the world.

The family traveled through Beijing, Xi'an, and Chengdu and focused on expressing the importance of education as she inspired the youth to learn about what's happening around the world. While the First Lady did spend time working, the first family also had the opportunity to see the sights and visit the giant pandas at the Chengdu Panda Base.

The First Lady works to encourage youth to face the challenges of our world, that involve discovering cures for diseases, building laws, fighting poverty, climate change, and more.

One of the First Lady's objectives in China was to meet with students about the opportunities of studying abroad. China is the fifth most popular place for American students to study abroad and, recently, there has been an influx of students from China coming to study in the U.S.

The first lady posted this photo on her Instagram account with the following caption:

"In studying abroad, you're not just changing your own life, you are changing the lives of everyone you meet." – The First Lady on Instagram

She also kept a blog of her time in China. Read more [here](#).

Watch the video of the first family at the Chengdu Panda Base [here](#).

