



WEEKLY UPDATE

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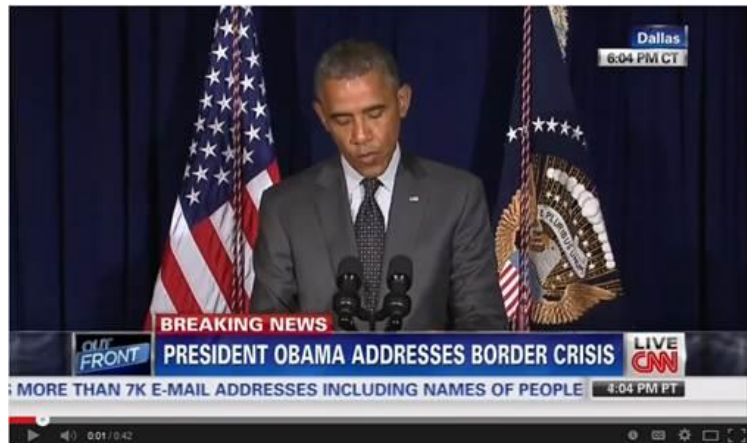
July 11, 2014

President Obama Makes Clear He's Focused on a Solution to Border Crisis

On Wednesday, President Obama addressed the situation at the border and made it clear he's focused on finding a solution. The President was asked Congress for an additional \$3.7 billion dollars to deal with this crisis, but Republicans continue dragging their feet and delaying the process.

Republicans are more focused on trying to score cheap political points than doing what's right for the country.

It's time for Republicans to join Democrats to quickly provide additional aid necessary to deal with the border crisis; move forward with measures that will help address the root causes of violence in Central America; and provide the long term solutions to fix our broken immigration system once and for all by passing comprehensive reform.



Watch the President Discuss the Need to Pass Commonsense Immigration Reform [here](#)

GOP Priorities

First it was Obamacare, then it was Benghazi, now it's calling to impeach the President. Apparently using political stunts to cater to the most extreme wings of their party is the GOP guidebook to winning elections.

Yesterday, reports showed that Iowa GOP Senate candidate Joni Ernst had jumped on the "impeach Obama" bandwagon and even [called the President a dictator](#). This is the same Joni Ernst who has the support of GOP leaders like Sarah Palin, Mitt Romney, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Jeb Bush, Rand Paul and Bobby Jindal. This is also the same Joni Ernst who still [believes there were WMDs in Iraq](#).

By backing a far right-wing Senate candidate like Joni Ernst, who called for impeaching or removing the President from office, the GOP is reminding us how extreme and out of touch the their party really is.

Instead of backing common sense policies like comprehensive immigration reform, affordable health care, or a federal minimum wage increase, which would support and grow the middle class, the GOP would rather back candidates that use extreme rhetoric that only speak to their base.

With every call for impeachment, endless attempts to repeal Obamacare, or redundant Benghazi hearing all the GOP does is remind us of their real priorities: firing up the GOP base > growing the middle class.

View this post on our Factivists website [here](#).

In the States

- On Monday, the Iowa Democratic Party responded to numerous reports of Republican Senate candidate Joni Ernst's collaboration with infamous Republican donors – the Koch brothers. Party Chairman Scott Brennan remarked on the negative implications this relationship would have for Iowa, expressing his concern that, "while Ernst is thanking the Kochs for trying to buy her a U.S. Senate seat, Iowans won't thank Ernst for supporting the Kochs' efforts to undermine Social Security, turn Medicare into a voucher program, and oppose an increase to the minimum wage that would provide 300,000 Iowans with a raise." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Monday, the Florida Democratic Party gave a piece of advice to Governor Rick Scott to call his own office. Responding to Governor Scott's counterfactual comments denying that public funds would be allocated to the inter-city passenger rail project known as All Aboard Florida, Florida Democrats wondered if "perhaps he truly doesn't know that upwards of \$200 million in taxpayer dollars have already been committed to projects connected to All Aboard Florida." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Tuesday, the Connecticut Democratic Party commented on the response, or lack thereof, of Tom Foley, John McKinney, and the Connecticut GOP to the Supreme Court decision made over a week earlier in the Hobby Lobby case. Given that the ruling had drastic and negative implications for women's reproductive rights, the Connecticut Democratic Party Chairwoman Nancy DiNardo holds these Connecticut Republicans accountable for avoiding the subject altogether. Chairwoman DiNardo said, "There is no doubt about where Democrats stand. We believe health decisions should be made between a woman and her doctor—not her boss. As for the Republicans, they've been radio silent, and silence is not an option on an issue as important as this." Read the full statement [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Virginia Democratic Party published a BuzzFeed post in response to the comments made by GOP senate candidate Ed Gillespie that ignorantly and offensively belittled the value of minimum-wage jobs. The post says, "Here's a list of other activities Ed Gillespie likely thinks are part of working a minimum wage job. Unfortunately, the reality is that they are too busy working hard and trying to make ends meet." Read the post [here](#).
- On Thursday, the Connecticut Democratic Party issued a press release expressing their concern over New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's upcoming trip to fundraise for Republican candidates in the Constitution State. After Christie refused to confront the parents of Sandyhook shooting victims following his recent decision to veto a gun safety bill in his own state, the Connecticut Democratic Party asks why "New Jersey's Governor has time to travel to Connecticut for a fundraiser, but won't meet with Connecticut parents affected by a devastating tragedy?" Read the full press release [here](#).

DNC Chair on the Confirmation of Castro as Sec. of US Department of Housing and Urban Development

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz issued the following statement Wednesday on the confirmation of Julian Castro as Secretary of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development:

"I would like to congratulate Julian Castro on his confirmation as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. As the mayor of San Antonio, Julian demonstrated his leadership and commitment to ensuring expanded opportunities for all. Castro helped revitalize San Antonio by attracting new businesses and investing in education to prepare the next generation of workers for the jobs of tomorrow. His experience will help him forward HUD's mission of strengthening our communities and bringing the dream of home ownership within the reach of more Americans.

"With the Senate's confirmation of Secretary Castro, the Obama administration adds another cabinet member who will be a powerful advocate for the Latino community and all Americans and demonstrates the President's commitment to building an administration that reflects the value of diverse backgrounds and experiences.

"On behalf of Democrats, I would also like to thank outgoing Secretary Shaun Donovan for more than five years of dedicated service. Under Secretary Donovan, HUD has helped stabilize the housing market in the wake of the economic crisis and prioritized keeping working families in their homes."

Rand Paul's Reality Check

Shot: [HEADLINE](#) – “Rand Paul Says No Other US Lawmaker Has Better Civil Rights Record”

Chaser: Yesterday, Rep. John Lewis [tweeted](#) this:



DNC Communications Director Mo Elleithee Responds to Boehner Lawsuit

Sunday, the House GOP and Speaker Boehner doubled down on their efforts [to sue the President](#) for taking action to help grow the middle class despite their obstruction.

On CNN's *State of the Union* panel, DNC Communications Director Mo Elleithee was asked about the lawsuit and explained the real reason for this latest stunt by the GOP:

Watch video [here](#).

