



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz's Statement on the 79th Anniversary of the Social Security Act

"Seventy-nine years ago, our nation made a promise to its citizens that in recognition of a lifetime of hard work, older Americans would be guaranteed the opportunity to retire with dignity.

"President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act on August 14, 1935 as the nation recovered from the depths of the Great Depression. While Republicans have seized on recent economic crises as an excuse to renege on our promises, Democrats believe they are evidence of the renewed significance of upholding the sacred trust between seniors and our country. Just last week, a leading GOP presidential contender, Sen. Rand Paul, advocated raising the Social Security retirement age by 5 years.

"Democrats will continue to oppose Republican efforts that jeopardize the retirement security of seniors, including safety net privatization that would subject their fortunes to the whims of the stock market. We remain committed to preserving and protecting Social Security for today's seniors and for future generations."

In recognition of the anniversary, DNC member James Roosevelt Jr., the grandson of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, wrote the below op-ed in CNN:

Protect Social Security, don't gut it CNN Opinion// Jim Roosevelt

Seventy-nine years ago this week, as he signed the Social Security Act into law, my grandfather, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, observed, "The civilization of the past hundred years, with its startling industrial changes, has tended more and more to make life insecure. Young people have come to wonder what would be their lot when they came to old age."

The first half of that sentiment carries even more weight today than it did then. Recent decades have witnessed changes in technology, in the workplace, and in the work force, that would have been difficult to imagine in 1935.

As our economy continues to recover from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, we're finding it necessary to adapt to a new economy that bears little resemblance to that of previous generations.

But as for the latter half of that sentiment, it is astonishing is how untrue it rings today. Even without the assurance of walking out the door 40 years down the line with a gold watch and a pension, younger Americans today have far less reason to fear living out their final years in abject poverty.

The reason, quite simply, is that Social Security has been one of the most successful programs in our nation's history. According to the Census Bureau, more than 35% of Americans age 65 and older were below the poverty line in 1959. Today, that number is below 10%. Take into consideration the families who receive Social Security benefits on account of the premature death of a parent or disability, and in 2012 Social Security lifted more than 22 million Americans out of poverty.

I'll admit that contributing to my appreciation of the Social Security program is that it is one of my grandfather's proudest legacies.

The Social Security Act fundamentally transformed America by putting in place a commitment to the most vulnerable members of our society; that commitment has been expanded with the additions of Medicare and Medicaid and strengthened by the reforms put in place by the Affordable Care Act.

I also had the opportunity to work in the Social Security Administration, which has helped bring to light just how disingenuous are the attacks lobbed against the program's long-term viability.

Despite Social Security's extraordinary success, and the program's deep popularity with the American people, it has been targeted with lies and distortions by those who would seek to end the program as we know it based on rigid ideology.

We have been repeatedly told that the program is bankrupting our country or is insolvent. Critics who point to the glut of Baby Boomers entering retirement seem to forget that their generation has paid into the system since they started working about 50 years ago. Their Social Security benefits have been earned, not handed to them.

In truth, as laid out in the Trustees' annual report, Social Security is still projected to be able to pay out full benefits for nearly another two decades. Even without any action by lawmakers, the program would still be able to pay out about 75% of scheduled benefits after that point.

The American people should be skeptical of Republican leaders who suggest that the only way to save the program for future generations is to gut it.

In 2006, opposition to President George W. Bush's plan to privatize Social Security was part of the platform that contributed to Democrats winning control of the House and Senate. In 2016, Republicans could nominate a candidate like Rand Paul, who just last week suggested that we increase the retirement age for Social Security by five years.

Social Security has afforded millions of Americans the opportunity to retire with dignity after a lifetime of hard work. Raising the retirement age would severely threaten to take that away from people who've done the best they can day in and day out, but for whom the demands of their job make working into their 70s unrealistic. And it is frightening to think what would have happened to the earliest Baby Boomers, who reached retirement in the aftermath of the economic crisis, had they been totally subject to the whims of Wall Street where they may have lost everything.

Because of my grandfather's polio, he relied on my grandmother who shared with him accounts of the poverty she observed around the country. Those stories fortified his resolve to enact a program that would address the extreme hardship of struggling Americans.

The paucity of such stories in America today should not be misinterpreted as a sign that we no longer need Social Security but instead taken as proof of the program's success, and evidence of the importance of its continued existence for future generations.

[Not the headline Mitch McConnell wants for his top surrogate](#)

Last week, Rand Paul headed to Iowa for what he hoped would be a great trip to build his brand as a Republican leader. Turns out he spent more time making mistakes than helping himself. View some of the Communications Department's Factivists blasts holding Paul accountable for what he said, below:

- **What conservatives are saying about Rand Paul's IA Trip** [[LINK](#)]
- **How Rand Paul's Big Iowa Swing is Playing in Hispanic Media (not well)** [[LINK](#)]
- **Add Same-Sex Marriage to Rand Paul's Pile of Pandering** [[LINK](#)]
- **DNC response to Rand Paul on access to birth control** [[LINK](#)]
- **GOP strategist: Big Problems for Rand in Iowa** [[LINK](#)]
- **DNC Response to Rand Paul Berating DREAMers as Law Breakers** [[LINK](#)]
- **DNC Memo: What we learned about Rand Paul from his Iowa trip** [[LINK](#)]
- **Rand Paul's Distortion of Israel Record Gets Wide Notice** [[LINK](#)]
- **Rand Paul's Profiles in Courage: Immigration Edition** [[LINK](#)]
- **Joint Statement From DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz And NJDC ED Moline On Rand Paul's Israel Comments** [[LINK](#)]
- **Rand Paul Distorts Israel Record in Iowa** [[LINK](#)]



Scott Walker wants to talk jobs, let's talk jobs

In Scott Walker's latest TV ad he tries to spin his lack of job creation in Wisconsin. But as Walker continues to skew the numbers, here are some facts.

1. In 2010, Walker promised to create 250,000 jobs by the end of his term. [He's failed](#), he's not even close to keeping his promise – in fact, Wisconsin actually lost 1,200 jobs in June and was one of only five states to lose jobs in each of the past two months.
2. Wisconsin has dropped more than 25 places in private-sector job growth – from 11th to 37th. On top of that, under Walker, Wisconsin's ranked [dead last](#), 10 out of 10, among states in the Midwest on job growth and has trailed the nation in annual job growth averaging 1.3% compared to 2.1% nationally.
3. Nearly 50,000 more Wisconsin workers had jobs at the end of Mary Burke's tenure as Commerce Secretary than are employed under Walker right now.



These three facts alone show Walker's dishonest attacks on Mary Burke won't stick. Perhaps this is why [more Wisconsin voters already support a true job creator like Burke](#), over a failed job creator like Walker.

Governor Christie Campaigns for the GOP's Most Extreme

New Jersey Governor and Chair of the Republican Governor's Association Chris Christie campaigned across the country for some pretty extreme and failed GOP governors. Here is a little bit about the company he likes to associate with:

In Maine:

On Tuesday, [Chris Christie headed to Maine](#) to support the Tea Party's poster child governor: Paul LePage. This was Christie's second trip to Maine for LePage this summer, but it's his first since one of LePage's most bizarre and frightening incidents as governor has come to light. According to [reports](#), Governor LePage met with individuals affiliated with an organization categorized by the FBI as a domestic terrorist group, and in those meetings, it appears LePage joked with the group about "hanging" Democratic legislators. This extreme, dangerous rhetoric has no place in politics, but Chris Christie is heading back to Maine to support LePage anyway.

From his [attacks on Maine's most vulnerable citizens](#) to his [refusal to expand Medicaid](#) to his incendiary [comparison of the IRS to the Gestapo](#) and [unacceptable language about the President](#), Paul LePage is clearly the most extreme governor in America. Not only is his extremism embarrassing for Mainers, but it's [hurting Maine's economy](#).

Like Christie's in New Jersey, Paul LePage's leadership has failed Maine. [According to CNBC](#), Maine is ranked 45th on its list of America's "Top States for Business," including 48th in overall economy. And [Business Insider](#) ranks Maine 47th among states nationally in economic growth.

Likewise, [according to the Wall Street Journal](#), under Christie's failed economic leadership, New Jersey's bond rating is among the worst in the nation, New Jersey is 48th in the nation in private-sector job growth, the state's credit rating has been downgraded a record six times and New Jersey's property taxes among the highest in the nation.

So maybe it should be no surprise that Christie is standing by his man – they share a penchant for horrible economic leadership, and it gives Christie a chance to cater to the same rigid, ideological base that is running the show in today's GOP. While Christie has pushed that he's a different type of politician, his continued willingness to kowtow to the radical base to bolster his 2016 presidential ambitions tells us that he's little more than a candidate who will do anything to advance his ambition.

In Alabama:

On Wednesday, Chris Christie joined Governor Robert Bentley to campaign in Alabama and raise money for Bentley and the RGA. It should be no surprise – considering Bentley is doing his best to emulate Chris Christie’s failed economic leadership in New Jersey.

Recently, Bentley [proposed a special session](#) of the legislature aimed at diverting much-needed education funds to his kitty for doling out incentives and tax breaks for big businesses. While Bentley’s decision has been [met with skepticism, confusion or downright derision](#) – even from his fellow Republicans – it’s straight out of the Chris Christie playbook. Under Christie, New Jersey has given about \$4 billion in tax credits, incentives and other giveaways to major corporations and big businesses with the aim of creating jobs in his state. But here’s the catch – [it’s been “largely unsuccessful.”](#)

Under Christie, New Jersey ranks 48th in private sector job growth, and their property taxes are among the highest in the nation. The state’s credit rating has been downgraded a record six times, and New Jersey leads the nation in home foreclosures. And Christie’s disastrous fiscal stewardship blew an \$800 million hole in the state budget.

This is the economic record that Robert Bentley is elevating and deciding to run on in Alabama – slow job growth, wrecked state budgets and a weakened economy. With Chris Christie at the helm, it’s clear that this is the model Republican governors are following.

In Mississippi:

On Wednesday, Chris Christie headed down to Mississippi today to appear with and fundraise for Governor Phil Bryant. Let’s take a look at just who Gov. Christie was campaigning with.

- Gov. Bryant not only supported an [extreme personhood amendment](#) that would outlaw certain forms of birth control and criminalize abortions, he said that if the bill failed then, “Satan wins.”
- Gov. Bryant signed legislation aimed at [shutting down the state’s clinics](#) that provide abortions, and has done little to hide his motives saying, “my goal is to end abortion in Mississippi.” (A judge ultimately struck down Bryant’s TRAP law saying it would restrict Mississippians from exercising their constitutional right.)
- Gov. Bryant signed a [restrictive abortion bill](#) into law that made zero exceptions for survivors of rape and incest.
- And when asked what caused a decline in the American education system, Gov. Bryant [blamed working moms](#) saying the cause was, “the mom got in the workplace.”

For women across the country, it says a lot about Gov. Christie that this is who he’s decided to lend his support to. But it really shouldn’t come as a surprise.

- Christie ran for Governor as an [anti-choice candidate](#) who said he was “devoted” to taking action and implementing restrictions on choice.
- He [cut millions in funding](#) from family planning centers which provided access to cancer screenings, birth control and many other services to low-income women. Christie decision to veto that funding every year he’s been in office caused several of these centers to close.
- Christie opposed requiring contraceptive coverage for women and called access to contraception a, “[silly issue.](#)”

Policies like these put extreme partisan ideology before the health and safety of women, they are and are completely out of touch with the American people, and sadly, they are the norm for today’s Republican Party.

In the States

- On Monday, the New Hampshire Democratic Party criticized Scott Brown for releasing a misleading attack ad. Scott's attack on Senator Jeanne Shaheen gives misleading information on Shaheen's votes for immigration reform. NHDP Communications Director Julie McClain said, "Scott Brown's attacks are disingenuous and full of half-truths that have left even Republicans calling him out for his cynicism and blatant political posturing. Brown has even resorted to attacking provisions he once voted for, further proving that his rhetoric is solely designed to distract and confuse voters. New Hampshire voters will see right through these tactics." Read the party's fact check of the ad [here](#).
- Earlier this week, members of the DNC's Technical Advisory Group traveled to Philadelphia, PA and New York City, NY to evaluate the cities as possible hosts for the 2016 Democratic National Convention. Here are a few articles about what the delegation was able to see and do:

New York City

- [New York bid to host Democratic National Convention gets close look](#)
- [Brooklyn Continues Its 2016 Democratic Convention Pitch](#)
- [Brooklyn makes its Democratic convention pitch](#)

Philadelphia

- [DNC officials wrap up 2-day site visit to evaluate Philly as possible 2016 convention site](#)
- [At breakfast, DNC team hears party bigwigs make Philly's case](#)
- [DNC search committee finds cheesesteaks at Pat's](#)
- On Tuesday, the Florida Democratic Party criticized Rick Scott for campaigning this week on veterans' issues, while ignoring his actions for the past four years. Florida Democratic Party spokesman Joshua Karp said, "Rick Scott's shame knows no bounds. This week he's using Florida's veterans as a political football to campaign for reelection on the taxpayer's dime. Our retired service members deserve better. If Rick Scott truly cared about Florida's veterans, he would have accepted federal funding to expand access to health care for over 40,000 veterans who need it. For months, leaders across Florida have said Rick Scott should call the legislature into special session to expand access to health care. Scott's allies in the legislature could have done just that during the recent special session, but they refused to discuss it and Scott himself remained completely silent. Scott's refusal to help 40,000 Florida veterans get the health care they deserve shows Floridians just how wrong Rick Scott's priorities truly are." Read the Party's full release [here](#).
- On Friday, the Ohio Democratic Party released a statement after the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services released the July jobs report showing that the state lost 12,400 under Republican Governor John Kasich's failed leadership. Ohio Democratic Party Chairman Chris Redfern said, "Under John Kasich, Ohio's job growth continues to drag behind the rest of the nation, and more people give up on finding a job in our state each month. These numbers reveal a frightening reality about Ohioans struggling in a weak economy. Kasich's policies have failed to create the jobs Ohioans need, all while shifting the tax burden onto middle class families." Read more analysis of Ohio's lagging economy under Kasich [here](#).