



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

January 30, 2015

President Rallies House Democrats in Philadelphia

On Thursday, President Barack Obama addressed his fellow Democrats in Philadelphia at the House Democratic Issues Conference. The President discussed the importance for Democrats to stand up and continue fighting for policies that help move America forward.

Emphasizing many of the proposals he put forth in the State of the Union last week, the President championed middle class economics and how enacting policies that support the middle class lead to economic growth and benefit all Americans. He explained to the group of Democrats that the next step is to make choices that further this success. He stated that by closing tax loopholes and eliminating special interests from the tax code, the country will be able to implement policies that strengthen the middle class and allow them to both benefit from and advance a strong economy.

In regards to Republican opposition, the President stated he will stand up against resistance to policies that have put the country on the right track, and he urged House members to do the same. He noted he would be ready to veto any legislation that might try to diminish the abilities of the Affordable Care Act or any bills that try to roll back rules aimed at preventing the type of Wall Street irresponsibility that have hurt so many American families.

The President rallied House Democrats to stand up strong for the issues they support, stating, "One thing I'm positive about is, when we're shy about what we care about, when we're defensive about what we've accomplished, when we don't stand up straight and proud and say, yes, we believe that everybody in this country should have health insurance, and we're glad that we are making that happen -- yes, we believe that families shouldn't be torn apart, and we're glad that we're fighting for immigration reform -- yes, we believe in middle-class economics, and we don't apologize for wanting to make sure that some wonderful young man or young woman out there can actually afford to go to college even if their parents didn't go -- we need to stand up and go on offense, and not be defensive about what we believe in!"

This morning, Vice President Joe Biden spoke before the group and reiterated that the decisions made by Democrats in the past six years have set the groundwork for the strength of the country today. He also urged House Democrats to continue fighting for the same kind of policies that will continue to help push America forward.



View the full speech [here](#).

GOP 2016ers “bogus” “senseless” Equal Pay Views

Six years ago, President Obama signed his first bill into law – the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which makes it easier for women to fight wage discrimination. **The President and Democrats have been clear that pay equity is a top priority and that the status quo where women make 78 cents to the dollar is not only wrong, it hurts our economy.**

Seems like a no brainer that equal pay should be a reality – women constitute nearly half of the nation’s work force, and women are their family’s primary breadwinner in 40% of U.S. households with children. ***So who is still standing in opposition to legislation that would move us closer to pay equity?***

Republicans. Including those who are moving closer to presidential runs. They have made their positions clear by voting against, obstructing, and deriding equal pay legislation.

As the campaign heats up it’s a fair bet the candidates running for the Republican nomination will try to hide from, obscure, and blatantly lie about where they stand in a futile attempt to appeal to women voters but that won’t change the facts.

Take a look:

- **Scott Walker** repealed equal pay enforcement in Wisconsin and called it a “bogus issue.”
- **Chris Christie:** repeatedly [vetoed equal pay legislation](#) including bills that would have strengthened the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act for New Jersey women and required salary transparency for public contractors calling it “senseless bureaucracy.”
- **Rand Paul** has not only voted against the Paycheck Fairness act repeatedly but also compared it the Soviet Union’s Politburo and he was even critical of the very idea of equal pay for women.
- **Marco Rubio** voted against the Paycheck Fairness Act and said bringing up equal pay legislation is “wasting time.”
- **Ted Cruz** voted against the Paycheck Fairness Act and derided it as a “show vote.”
- **Rick Perry** [vetoed an equal pay law](#) meant to prevent wage discrimination against Texas women. Perry also suggested equal pay is not a “substantive” issue and called the focus on equal pay “nonsense.”
- **Bobby Jindal** voted against the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and opposed measures to bridge the wage gap in Louisiana.
- **Jeb Bush** when asked about the Equal Rights Amendment movement said “that’s kind of a retro subject,” and when asked about the Paycheck Fairness Act first didn’t know what it was then seemed to deride it as a “definition issue.”
- **Mike Pence** has repeatedly voted against equal pay legislation.
- **Mitt Romney** refused to support equal pay legislation during his 2012 campaign and when Romney’s chief policy adviser was asked whether the Republican supported the Lilly Ledbetter Act you could hear a pin drop during the shamefully long silence before he said, “we’ll get back to you on that.” Needless to say, he didn’t offer much support.

It’s not surprising that the GOP presidential hopefuls oppose equal pay – it just reinforces what we already know about their 2016 field. They do not stand with women, they do not stand with middle class families, and they insist on blocking even the most commonsense measures to grow our economy.

Some Hard Facts for Republicans

The Congressional Budget Office reported this week 19 million fewer Americans will be uninsured by the end of this year because of changes under the Affordable Care Act AND projects the federal deficit will shrink this year to its lowest level since President Obama took office—all that news in just one day.

We hope our Republican friends will appreciate this great news for the American public but if [last night was any indication](#), they'll just keep trying to spin their version of the facts instead of accepting a hard fact that President Obama and Democrats are proving time and again – middle class economics work.

Deficit To Shrink To Lowest Level Of Obama Presidency, CBO Says

ASSOCIATED PRESS //

The Congressional Budget Office says the federal budget deficit will shrink this year to its lowest level since President Barack Obama took office.

CBO says the deficit will be \$468 billion for the budget year that ends in September. That's slightly less than last year's \$483 billion deficit.

As a share of the economy, CBO says this year's deficit will be slightly below the historical average of the past 50 years.

In a report released Monday, CBO projects solid economic growth for the next few years. The official scorekeeper of Congress also expects unemployment to drop slightly.

Beyond 2018, CBO projects deficits to start rising again as more baby boomers retire and enroll in Social Security and Medicare.

View the full CBO report [here](#).

What is Mike Pence thinking?

Immediately after the [Indianapolis Star broke news](#) that Gov. Mike Pence was planning to launch a state-run media service, a media service financed by Indiana taxpayers and run by his very own communications team, national and local reporters called him out – and rightfully so.

Pence may want his own media outlet to try to spin the fact that Indiana was only one of four states that saw an increase in the unemployment rate last month, or to message his failure to accept the federal funds for pre-K to educate more young Hoosiers but it's not the responsibility of Indiana taxpayers to clean up after his failed governorship.



"Pence wants to create, you won't believe this, you will not believe this, a state run news organization"

Watch: <http://youtu.be/yNb5wWLG5-k>

View the rest of the Factivists post [here](#).

DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz's Statement on the 6th Anniversary of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement on the 6th anniversary of President Obama signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law:

"Six years ago today, President Obama made the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act the first piece of legislation he signed into law. By doing so, President Obama set a course for his administration to defend equality of opportunity for all Americans and prioritize middle class economic policies that help families make ends meet.

"With more women serving as their family's primary breadwinner, equal pay is more than a women's issue; equal pay is a family issue and an economic issue. Yet Congressional Republicans continue to oppose the Paycheck Fairness Act - common sense legislation necessary to provide women the legal tools they need to fight pay discrimination when it occurs - and the GOP's potential 2016 contenders dismiss the importance of equal pay as an economic issue for middle class families.

"Six years after the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act became law, Democrats are still fighting for economic policies that benefit middle class women and their families, including steps that continue to move us closer to the promise of equal pay."

In the States

- This week, Chairman of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee John Currie released the following statement in reaction to reports of Governor Chris Christie forming a political action campaign to boost a potential presidential bid: "After 137 days out of state last year, blatant and unethical efforts to cozy up to radical conservatives and wealthy donors alike, Chris Christie's national ambitions come as news to no one. It is, however, ironic that while New Jersey braces for a major snow storm, Chris Christie is focusing on new ways to shovel campaign cash into his pockets." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Monday, the Arizona Democratic Party announced the election of a new chair, Alexis Tameron, the first woman and first Latina to chair the state's party. Tameron released the following statement: "My priorities as party chair are to consistently advocate for our party's progressive values, increase our engagement and mobilization statewide with more aggressive digital and social media outreach and expand our fundraising base to leave us less exposed to the effects of "Dark Money" in our elections." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Tuesday, the Florida Democratic Party criticized Senator Marco Rubio for missing key meetings of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Intelligence Committee on ISIS in order to fundraise in California for a potential presidential campaign, while he also wrote an op-ed critiquing President Obama's efforts at combating terrorist groups. The Florida Democratic Party released the following response: "Let those not skipping out on foreign policy briefings to sip cocktails with wealthy donors in sunny California cast the first stones. If Rubio thinks launching a presidential campaign filled with hypocritical, politics-as-usual attacks is what Americans are looking for, he might need to sit back and take a sip of water." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Tuesday, Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Chairman Ken Martin released the following statement in response to Governor Mark Dayton's budget proposal: "During Gov. Mark Dayton's first term in office we saw an improved economy, the lowest unemployment rate in years and major investments in all levels of education. Gov. Dayton announced a proposed budget today that will build on those successes. He has provided long-term solutions that will benefit residents of the entire state...From free all-day kindergarten to a minimum wage increase to being named the best state to live in, Minnesota has come far during Gov. Dayton's first four years in office." Read the full press release [here](#).
- This past weekend, Wisconsin Democratic Party Chair Mike Tate released the following response to Governor Scott Walker's speech at the Iowa Freedom Summit: "The Scott Walker Iowa caucus voters heard campaigning for president today is completely different from the one who was re-elected in November on a promise to serve as Wisconsin's governor for the next four years...While Walker is campaigning in Iowa, and promising caucus voters he'll be back there soon and often, Wisconsin is facing a \$2.2 billion budget deficit for the next biennium that is well on its way to \$3 billion and higher." Read the full press release [here](#).