



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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What's The Worst Way to Celebrate National Women's Health Week? The GOP Can Think Of a Few

"House Republicans sent a clear message that they disagree with the majority of Americans who believe women have the right to make their own health care decisions. And unfortunately, the GOP presidential field agrees. While Republicans celebrate National Women's Health Week by passing a bill that most voters think they shouldn't even take up, Democrats will continue to champion policies that allow women to make their own health care decisions and afford coverage to keep her and her family healthy." - **Kaylie Hanson, DNC Director of Women's Media**

Here are some of the more alarming ways the 2016 GOP Presidential field has tried to undermine women's health:

Jeb Bush

- As governor, [gutted support](#) for Planned Parenthood, family planning programs, and women's health screenings.
- [Spent](#) millions of taxpayer dollars on anti-choice counseling for women.
- [Supported](#) a ballot initiative to limit access to abortion care for Florida women.

Rand Paul

- [Supports](#) legislation that allows a woman to be fired from her job for the choices she makes about her reproductive health.
- Says he would [defund Planned Parenthood](#), which primarily provides cancer screenings, gynecological services, and routine health care for women. This is despite [64% of voters](#) opposed to defunding Planned Parenthood.

Scott Walker

- Introduced [legislation](#) that would allow a doctor to withhold information about a woman's pregnancy from her if the doctor is morally opposed to abortion.
- Signed a budget that [strips](#) funding from women's health clinics, including for cancer screenings, HIV testing, and routine health exams for women.

Marco Rubio

- [Introduced](#) legislation to let a boss deny a woman access to contraception if he or she were opposed to it.
- Would [repeal](#) the Affordable Care Act, which would prevent women from accessing affordable health care, receiving new pregnancy benefits, and access to free preventive care. Repealing the Affordable Care Act would also kick families off of Medicaid and force higher health costs on women.

Chris Christie

- Vetoed funding for Planned Parenthood five [times](#) as governor of New Jersey.
- [Made cuts](#) to women's health programs that led to the closure of six family centers in New Jersey.

Ted Cruz

- [Introduced](#) legislation that allows a woman to be fired from her job for the choices she makes about her reproductive health.
- Led the push to shut down the government in an attempt to stop the Affordable Care Act.

So Jeb is NOT a decider.

Monday:

Megyn Kelly: On the subject of Iraq, obviously very controversial, knowing what we know now, would you have authorized the invasion?

Jeb Bush: I would've.

Tuesday:

Sean Hannity: So in other words, in 20/20 hindsight you would make a different decision?

Jeb Bush: Yeah, I don't know what that decision would've been. That's a hypothetical, but the simple fact is mistakes were made, as they always are in life, this is not a- in foreign policy.

"He's joking, right? Yesterday the answer was yes, and now he doesn't know? Leave it to Jeb Bush to make George W. Bush look ready for primetime. At least he's right about one thing: mistakes *were* made. And one thing conservatives and progressives agree on is that we paid an incredibly high price for those mistakes. So, Governor Bush, what more do you need to know? To the rest of us, this isn't a hypothetical. It's clear, and in this one case, we'd like you be more like your brother — be a decider." — **Mo Elleithee, DNC Communications Director**

Rand's Rocky Reception in San Francisco

During a visit to San Francisco this weekend, Rand Paul asked "Some people want to know what in the hell is a Republican doing in San Francisco?"

Given Paul's positions on net neutrality, LGBT rights, immigration reform, student loans, and the minimum wage, we were wondering too.

Below please find a roundup of news coverage on Rand Paul's trip:

San Francisco Chronicle: "On net neutrality, Paul said it was only fair for customers to pay more for faster Internet service and to let the market set the rates...The issue is an important one in Silicon Valley and Paul's answer was met largely with silence."

Politico: "Paul hasn't just spoken out against the FCC's new rules, which require Internet providers to treat all Web traffic equally; the GOP lawmaker has introduced a congressional resolution that would overturn the agency's order. Yet his position isn't shared widely in Silicon Valley, where many in the industry favor tough Internet protections."

USA Today: "His pitch, though, didn't impress Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Calif. In a call held by the Democratic National Committee, Swalwell said, 'Rand Paul likes to say he's a "different" kind of Republican, but his policies don't sound very different than the rest of the Republicans running for President.'"

San Francisco Chronicle: "...Paul dodged such recent trouble areas as his claim that he had earned an undergraduate biology degree (he hadn't) and his opposition to same-sex marriage. 'We will have to agree to disagree on some things.'"

National Journal: "Another issue to which Paul stated his opposition was the refinancing student loans, an idea [championed](#) by some progressives, such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren. It'd lead to chaos,' he said..."

KCBS Radio San Francisco quoting Rep. Eric Swalwell: "'He may look young, he may have a SnapChat account, but he's wildly out-of-touch', especially on tech issues he says, like net neutrality."

San Francisco Chronicle: "Paul's move for Silicon Valley votes...drew a sharp response from Democratic National Committee spokesman Eric Walker. 'He says he'll broaden Republicans' appeal to Millennials but he would slash Pell Grants, opposed net neutrality rules to keep the Internet fair to all and belittles LGBT rights saying he "doesn't believe in rights based on behavior,"' said Walker. 'He says he wants to broaden the GOP's appeal to African Americans and Latinos, but he voiced opposition to the Civil Rights Act and voted against comprehensive immigration reform. We look forward to hearing who he is attempting to reinvent himself to be this weekend.'"

Wow, Jeb Bush Is Awful
NEW YORK TIMES // GAIL COLLINS

Let's discuss Jeb Bush's terrible week.

I'm really troubled by his awful performances, and I'm generally a person who takes bad news about politicians pretty well. For instance, a friend just sent me a story about the Texas agriculture commissioner's vow to bring deep-fried foods back to school cafeterias. ("It's not about French fries; it's about freedom.") I would classify this as interesting, yet somehow not a shocking surprise.

But today we're talking about Jeb Bush. As a presidential hopeful, Bush's most attractive feature was an aura of competence. Extremely boring competence, perhaps. Still, an apparent ability to get through the day without demonstrating truly scary ineptitude.

Then, about a week ago, The Washington Post reported that during a private meeting with rich Manhattan financiers, Bush announced that his most influential adviser on Middle Eastern matters was his brother George.

This was a surprise on many fronts. For one thing, Jeb had apparently missed the memo on how everything you say to potential donors at private meetings can wind up on an endless YouTube loop for all eternity.

Also, he had begun his all-but-announced campaign for the presidency with an "I'm my own man" sales pitch. Now he was saying, in effect, "Well, I can always ask my brother."

Then, on Monday, Fox News aired an interview in which host Megyn Kelly asked Jeb whether "knowing what we know now" he would have authorized the invasion of Iraq.

"I would have, and so would have Hillary Clinton, just to remind everybody," Bush replied.

Now no one, including Hillary Clinton's worst enemy in the entire world, thinks that if she could go back in time to 2002, knowing that the invasion of Iraq was going to be a total disaster and that she would lose the presidential nomination in 2008 to a guy who ran on that very issue, she would still have voted to authorize the use of force. So, obviously, Bush misheard the question, right?

Apparently not. He then went on: "I mean, so just for the news flash to the world if they're trying to find places where there's big space between me and my brother, this might not be one of those."

We had now learned that: 1) Jeb Bush still thinks invading Iraq was a good idea; and 2) he has inherited more of the family syntax issues than we knew.

Fast-forward one day: "I interpreted the question wrong, I guess," Bush told Sean Hannity in a radio interview. "I was talking about given what people knew then, would you have done it, rather than knowing what we know now. And knowing what we know now, you know, clearly there were mistakes."

He still didn't claim that he'd have done anything different than his brother had done. ("That's a hypothetical.") But he was really nailing down that business about mistakes.

Then Bush was off to Nevada, campaigning in his own special way. ("I'm running for president in 2016, and the focus is going to be about how we, if I run, how do you create high sustained economic growth.")

He also announced that hypothetical questions were a "disservice" to the U.S. troops and their families.

What is going on here? It's not actually about foreign policy. Jeb Bush clearly knows nothing whatsoever about foreign policy, but then neither do the majority of other Republican presidential hopefuls.

The bottom line is that so far he seems to be a terrible candidate. He couldn't keep his "I'm-my-own-man" mantra going through the spring. He over-babbled at a private gathering. He didn't know how to answer the Iraq question,

which should have been the first thing he tackled on the first day he ever considered that he might someday think for even a minute about running for president.

This is obviously a problem for the Bush camp, but it's a big one for the nation's army of concerned citizens, too. There are lots of Americans who are not going to vote Republican next year, but who nevertheless have found some comfort in the idea that Jeb Bush would almost certainly be the Republican nominee.

They might disagree with him on a lot of issues, but at least he wasn't Ted Cruz. "I'm a fan of Jeb Bush," Cruz said cruelly, when asked about the Iraq incident. "I'll give him credit for candor and consistency."

If the version of Jeb Bush we've been seeing lately is the one we're going to be stuck with, then one of the other Republican contenders is going to win. Maybe the guy who thinks Obamacare is the worst thing since slavery. Or the guy who once linked vaccines to children with mental disorders. The guy who used to peddle a "Diabetes Solution Kit." The guy with the bridge traffic jam!

Right now, you know, it's all hypothetical.

For new college grads, job market is best in a decade

BOSTON GLOBE // MEGAN WOOLHOUSE

The class of 2015 will enter what economists say is the best job market for new college graduates in nearly a decade, as the improving US economy and accelerating retirements of baby boomers create job openings across many fields.

College and university career offices say their graduates are having a far easier time landing positions, and far more employers are coming to campuses to recruit. At the University of Massachusetts Amherst, for example, 104 companies were on campus at a fall job fair to recruit engineering and technology majors, up from 89 last year and 65 in 2010.

Perhaps more significantly, the demand for workers of all kinds was so great that the university held its biggest spring job fair in four years, attracting more than 130 employers in fields ranging from communications to consulting to sales.

"Years ago, people thought, 'What are you going to do with a history major?'" said Todd Butynski, an assistant director in UMass Amherst's Career Services office. "Now, with a little networking and initiative, even that liberal arts major is going to find something."

Ethan Forauer, a senior at Clark University in Worcester, faced the classic conundrum of soon-to-be college graduates with little job experience: For most positions — even at entry level — candidates with experience were being sought.

But Forauer forged ahead, feeling more than a little anxiety as he networked and sent out scores of resumes in early April. A month later, the 22-year-old environmental science major accepted a \$45,000-a-year job at a North Andover consulting firm. "It was very exciting, and just a huge, huge relief," said Forauer, who begins working June 1. "I'm starting my life in the real world."

Both the state and national unemployment rates, 4.8 and 5.4 percent, respectively, have fallen to their lowest levels since the early days of the last recession, according to the US Labor Department.

Joblessness among 20- to 24-year-olds with college degrees has declined to about 7 percent, from just over 9 percent in 2010. That's the lowest since 2008, the first full year of the recession, when unemployment among twentysomething college graduates averaged 6 percent.

Meanwhile, the competition for jobs has diminished. Today, about 1.5 unemployed workers compete for each job opening, compared with seven in June 2009, said Paul Harrington, director of the Center for Labor Markets and Policy at Drexel University in Philadelphia. The reason: The US economy has created some 2.5 million jobs in the past year alone.

"Almost all the net increase in jobs is in these jobs that require a college degree," Harrington said. "Kids coming out of college are going to have a pretty good year."

Demand is strong for business, finance, and health-care-related majors, Harrington said, but as usual, the most sought-after graduates hold degrees in so-called STEM fields: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Of the 2.5 million jobs added in the past year, one in four were in engineering, computer science, and science-related professions, the Labor Department says.

In Massachusetts, where companies offer finder's fees and signing bonuses of \$10,000 or more to land technical talent, many employers have begun recruiting STEM majors in their earliest years in college. Rebecca Baturin, for example, worked the past three summers in a paid internship at NASA in Cape Canaveral, Fla., as she earned a degree in electrical engineering at UMass Amherst.

She recently took a \$47,000-a-year job at the space agency.

"In my major, most people have jobs," said Baturin, 23, of Norwood, noting friends who accepted jobs at defense contractor Raytheon Corp. and tech giant Google Inc. "As long as you're willing to move or try something new, it's pretty easy to find a job with an engineering degree."

Of the 25 best paid majors, all but two, economics and business, were in STEM fields, according to a recent report by Georgetown University .

Nationally, for those with bachelor's degrees, petroleum engineering majors commanded a median annual salary of \$136,000. Pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences majors earned a median \$113,000, and mathematics grads had median earnings of \$73,000.

Social work was among the lowest-paying bachelor's degrees, with median earnings of \$42,000 a year, followed by early childhood education, at \$39,000, according to the Georgetown study.

In general, wages for new college graduates, as for US workers, have stagnated since the recession. On average, entry-level wages for graduates are expected to be no better than 15 years ago, according to a recent report by the Economic Policy Institute, a left-leaning think tank in Washington.

But if the economy continues to expand, unemployment falls more, and labor markets tighten further, economists expect wages and salaries to rise. In Greater Boston, with one of the nation's strongest recoveries because of its technology, health care, and higher education sectors, employee compensation recently jumped at the fastest rate since 2007. Pay and benefits rose 3.6 percent in March from a year earlier, versus 2.8 percent nationally, the Labor Department reported.

Such news is giving hope even to liberal arts majors.

John Choi of Medford said he's been looking for work since he stopped volunteering in November for Charlie Baker's campaign for governor. Choi received a master's degree from Harvard's Graduate School of Education in June after majoring in international relations at Boston College. After a frustrating winter sending as many as five resumes a day without responses, he recently fielded five interview offers in one week.

"I'm hopeful," said Choi, 28. "People are still contacting me — there's not just silence."

In the States

- Today—as Georgia Republicans gather in Athens for their state convention—Democratic Party of Georgia Chair DuBose Porter held a press call to highlight the out-of-touch and extreme views held by visiting GOP presidential contenders. Here are a few excerpts of Chairman Porter's remarks: "This weekend, Georgia Republicans are holding their state convention in Athens. While their usual suspects—like Nathan Deal, Johnny Isakson, and David Perdue—will be on hand to share their out-of-touch vision for our state with the party faithful, the GA GOP has outsourced some primetime speaking spots to a few of their presidential hopefuls." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Tuesday, the Wisconsin Democratic Party launched a series of billboards running in Milwaukee and Green Bay calling on Scott Walker to come home, do his job, and accept federal funds to strengthen BadgerCare. On a call with reporters, Wisconsin Democratic Party Chair Mike Tate said: "We launched these billboards today to remind voters in Wisconsin, and maybe even some of Walker's Republican colleagues, that Wisconsin's middle class has to come before Scott Walker's political career." Read the full press release [here](#).
- Over the weekend, U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez and Representative Martinez Fischer published a piece in the San Antonio Express-News, outlining the major economic impacts that raising the minimum wage would have in Texas. They write: "Raising the minimum wage is pro-economic growth. The Economic Policy Institute estimates that a proposal such as HJR 26 would increase Texas' gross domestic product by \$3.1 billion. And according to a study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research, of the 13 states that increased their minimum wage above the federal rate in early 2014, all but two experienced gains in employment." Read the full op-ed [here](#).
- Chris Christie was back in New Hampshire on Thursday, but voters weren't convinced that his economic record is what Granite Staters are looking for. Rep. Katherine Rogers reviews "New Jersey's abysmal economic record under Christie" and concludes that "New Hampshire doesn't want a president who is going to drive our country into a ditch after we just recovered from a Republican recession." Read the full op-ed [here](#).
- New poll data released this week by Southern Media and Opinion Research found Gov. Bobby Jindal at an all-time low, just in time for his next trip to stump for president in Iowa. Meanwhile, the Republican running to be Jindal's successor, Sen. David Vitter, continues to spin his wheels in Washington, wasting time and burning bridges in the Capitol while Louisiana taxpayers struggle back home. "David Vitter has put the same kind of time and care into representing Louisiana families in the U.S. Senate that Gov. Jindal has put into being governor—with the same disastrous results for taxpayers," said Stephen Handwerk, executive director of the Louisiana Democratic Party. Read the full press release [here](#).