



WEEKLY UPDATE

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DNC Research Director Lauren Dillon on Medium: Shame on Jeb Bush

Looking for a poolside book? Some light reading for the summer? Well, Jeb Bush's *Profiles in Character* isn't it. But don't worry—we read it so you don't have to.

Let's start with Jeb Bush's social agenda, which is literally a page from an 1850s novel. Talk about taking America backwards...

Bush cited *The Scarlet Letter* in describing how our society should treat single mothers.

It's been a while since I read *The Scarlet Letter*. But I don't remember siding with the old men who shamed Hester Prynne as the paragons of virtue whose example we should be following.

Shame on Jeb Bush



Yet the idea that more and more of our neighbors deserve to be shamed is a recurring theme of *Profiles in Character*. It seems that any life decision that diverges from Jeb Bush's carefully curated life is deserving of shame. Anyone who is struggling to make the best of a difficult situation should be ridiculed. It's a wildly condescending view of the American people and a valuable insight into how Bush really feels about us.

Women who give birth out of wedlock are in for a particularly large helping of shame from Jeb Bush. Their "irresponsible conduct" occurs because "their parents and neighbors have become ineffective at attaching some sense of ridicule to this behavior." Bush longs for "a time when neighbors and communities would frown on out of wedlock births and when public condemnation was enough of a stimulus for one to be careful."

But Bush goes even beyond that, judging not just single parents, but also their children. He dooms young girls without fathers to a life he spends his book disparaging, one of promiscuity and out-of-wedlock births. He writes that for young girls, the absence of a father "can be measured by sexual activity and the rate of out of wedlock childbearing."

Bush is quite particular about what constitutes an acceptable family. Parents need to be married because "marriage legitimizes children." If you haven't walked down the aisle, you certainly shouldn't be living together because cohabiting women are more likely to cheat.

Of course, for Jeb Bush there's plenty more shame to go around:

Recipients of Public Assistance—Jeb Bush thinks that people are on public assistance because they're not willing to work hard or perform jobs like shining shoes. He writes, "Another example of how we have come to devalue shame in society is in our welfare system... For many it is more shameful to work than to take public assistance—that is how backward shame has become!"

Public Schools—In *Profiles in Character*, Bush lumps in public education with public assistance. He concedes that it is an important area for government involvement—but only for those "truly in need."

"Inner City" Kids—Bush suggested it was a "good idea" to dress troubled youth in "frilly pink jumpsuits and making them sweep the streets of their own neighborhoods! Would these kids be so cavalier then? It's not just our inner city streets that are in dire need of some sense of shame."

View [here](#) to read the rest of this Medium post.

Here are the things Jeb Bush believes TODAY

On Thursday in Poland, Jeb Bush addressed the views outlined in his book, *Profiles in Character*, and said where he stands TODAY. [Watch it here.](#)

- Jeb Bush said TODAY that being a single mom “hurts the prospects, limits the possibilities of young people being able to live lives of purpose and meaning.”
- Jeb Bush TODAY defended Florida’s Scarlet Letter Law.
- Jeb Bush TODAY encouraged people to buy his book.
- Jeb Bush TODAY confirmed what we already knew: that these out of touch beliefs that advocate shame are part of his policy platform.

“Shame on you, Jeb.” – **Holly Shulman, DNC national press secretary**

The State Of Women In Carly Fiorina’s America: No Equal Pay, No Maternity Leave, No Women’s Health Choices

In advance of [Carly Fiorina’s speech on Thursday](#), we gave you a taste of “The State Of Women In Carly Fiorina’s America.”

- Fiorina [does not support](#) legislation requiring equal pay (but who needs it, when you have a [\\$21 million golden parachute](#) to rely on).
- Fiorina thinks [there is no use for laws mandating paid maternity leave](#).
- Fiorina called for [overturning](#) Roe v. Wade, which would take women’s rights back to the 1960’s.
- Fiorina [backed](#) a measure that would have required women who were raped to file a police report before obtaining an abortion, [even after](#) GOP women in Congress said the bill was too extreme.
- Fiorina said a Texas bill that [closed](#) 86 percent of the abortion clinics in the state was “[not particularly extreme](#).”
- Fiorina doesn’t take access to [contraception seriously](#), saying women have “plenty of access to birth control both before and after” the Supreme Court’s Hobby Lobby decision.

WATCH: No Exceptions for Rick Perry on Abortion

On Wednesday night, Rick Perry went on the Kelly File to try and defend [his law](#) that severely restricts a woman’s right to choose in the state of Texas. But Rick Perry didn’t just support this out of touch law, he actually said he’s against abortion in **cases of rape, incest, and when the life of the mother is at risk.**

WATCH: [No Exceptions for Rick Perry on Abortion](#)

“Whether it’s Rick Perry in Texas, [Scott Walker in Wisconsin](#), [Jeb Bush in Florida](#), or [Marco Rubio in the U.S. Senate](#), this GOP 2016 presidential field will do whatever they can to limit a woman’s access to reproductive care. Republicans still don’t get that women don’t want a political candidate meddling in a decision that should be between her and her doctor.” –**Kaylie Hanson, DNC Director of Women’s Media**

What You Need To Know in Advance of The Vote on Walker's Abortion Bill

On Tuesday, the Wisconsin Senate voted on a bill that restricts a woman's right to make her own health care decisions, a bill Scott Walker said he would support. In addition to the fact it does not include any exceptions for rape or incest, it's also been revealed that the legislation he's backing would allow men who feel wronged by a woman's health decision to sue for damages. But it doesn't stop there. **The bill could actually prioritize a fetus' survival over the survival of the mother when the mother's life is in danger.**

"No exceptions for rape or incest, men can sue for damages, and the life of a mother isn't necessarily the priority in a medical emergency. That's this abortion ban in a nutshell. And Scott Walker still insists he'll sign it. Clearly, Republicans still don't get that women don't want a political candidate meddling in a decision that should be between her and her doctor." **—Kaylie Hanson, DNC Director of Women's Media**

Here's how it's playing:

Huffington Post: [Mother's Health Takes Backseat To Fetus' In Wisconsin Abortion Bill](#)

"The bill bans abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, even in cases of rape and incest, except when the woman is undergoing a medical emergency. In an emergency situation, the bill 'requires the physician to terminate the pregnancy in the manner that, in reasonable medical judgment, provides the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive' — not in the manner that provides the best opportunity for the woman to survive."

Cosmopolitan: [Why Scott Walker Is Wrong in His Defense of a 20-Week Abortion Ban](#)

"...this web of laws restricting access to contraception and access to abortion makes it even more obvious that bans on abortions after 20 weeks aren't about women's health or fetal pain at all; they're a novel way of restricting abortion rights and trying to overturn Roe v. Wade, plain and simple. That's true with or without an exception for rape and incest. But the lack of such an exception handily illustrates just how indifferent anti-abortion politicians like Walker are to the complicated, messy reality of women's lives."

Rolling Stone: [Wisconsin Abortion Bill Would Allow Men to Sue for Emotional Distress](#)

"If Assembly Bill 237 becomes law, a man who impregnates a woman will be able to sue an abortion doctor for damages — 'including damages for personal injury and emotional and psychological distress' — for performing or attempting to perform an abortion on that woman after 20 weeks of pregnancy, unless the pregnancy is the result of sexual assault or incest. Women who receive abortions can also sue their doctors under the bill."

View [here](#) to read the rest of this post on our Factivists site.

In The States

- On Monday, the Democratic Party of Florida issued five questions on the behalf of Floridians in response to Gov. Jeb Bush's disastrous trip to Germany, where it became increasingly clear that the former Governor is running as the second act to his brother's failed presidency: "It's a long way from Florida to Germany, but Jeb's visit there today raises serious questions about his leadership. He opposes Obama's policy in Ukraine without giving an alternative, he says he would have invaded Iraq just like his brother, and just like his brother he says he would deploy new American troops to Iraq. Here are the five crucial questions Jeb Bush must answer in Germany." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Tuesday, New Jersey Democratic Party Chairman John Currie released the following statement regarding the recent New Jersey Supreme Court decision allowing Gov. Chris Christie to withhold pension checks from hardworking New Jersians: "Although I am disappointed with the State Supreme Court's ruling, nothing has changed for Governor Christie. He continues to act recklessly and irresponsibly. That was true when he flagrantly violated his own pension reform law, and it is true as he avoids fixing our state's crumbling infrastructure and addressing the massive budget deficit he created...The governor likes to spin success in what most would view as failure while blaming others for his mistakes. I suspect that he will do that with this decision too." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Wisconsin Democratic Party released the following statement on Gov. Scott Walker's thinly veiled effort to boost his standing among the Tea Party at the expense of the rights of women in his home state: "This extreme legislation, which Republicans are passing against the advice of the medical community, radically restricts a woman's ability to make her own personal healthcare decisions -- even in times of tragedy -- in consultation with her family, her faith, and under her doctor's advisement. Nothing about this bill will make our families healthier, our communities stronger, or our state a better place. This attack on women's health serves only to bolster Scott Walker's standing with the extreme right-wing as he campaigns for president." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, the Democratic Party of Louisiana issued a response to the passage of the "SAVE ACT" or put differently, Grover Norquist's agenda: "In the final hours of the 2015 legislative session, the Louisiana Legislature ceded its constitutional authority and any semblance of decision-making power to Gov. Bobby Jindal's campaign staff. In an act of submission to the unelected, out-of-state Republican power broker who holds Jindal's leash, both houses of the Louisiana legislature abandoned any sense of pride or duty to pass the "SAVE" scam into state law. Their surrender allows Jindal, on paper, to uphold his oath not to have raised taxes. In practice, it represents an utter and willful violation of the oath every lawmaker took to the voters of Louisiana." Read the full press release [here](#).
- Today, the Communications Director for the Iowa Democratic Party, Sam Lau, issued a release highlighting how Gov. Chris Christie was born to run... from his record: "Chris Christie may think he was born to run away from his failures and sinking approval ratings in New Jersey. But he can't hide his record that has left working families behind and his state in worse condition than when he came into office...Iowans are looking for leaders, not absent governors who prefer to bully teachers and workers while rewarding corporations. Chris Christie's policies, rhetoric and leadership are not welcome in Iowa." Read the full press release [here](#).