

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

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May 10, 2013

President Obama Kicks off Middle Class Jobs & Opportunity Tours



On Thursday, President Obama traveled to Austin, Texas where he kicked off a series of "Middle Class Jobs & Opportunity Tours."

The trip represents the core of President Obama's agenda and his North Star: creating a strong and thriving economy built on good middle class jobs.

After touring a manufacturing line at high-tech company Applied Materials, Inc, the President talked at length about his plan to strengthen the middle class during the State of the Union. The plan focuses on three goals – make America a magnet for good jobs, help

workers earn the skills they need to do those jobs, and make sure hard work leads to a decent living.

While in Texas, the President announced two important executive actions that will strengthen the economy. These steps are not a replacement for the bold action Congress needs to take to create jobs and grow the economy, but they will make a difference. These executive actions demonstrate President Obama's continuing commitment to do everything possible to fuel economic growth and strengthen the middle class.

The President will continue meeting with members of Congress and push them to take action on our economic initiatives, but he will not wait for Congress to act. He will do everything in his power to create jobs and strengthen the economy.

President Obama: Affordable Care Act Good for America's Mother

On Friday afternoon, President Obama delivered remarks on the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on the health, lives and pocketbooks of women and their families. The President was joined on stage by women and families who are feeling the benefits of the ACA. With Mother's Day approaching, the President highlighted how the ACA has already made a significant difference in the lives of America's mothers, the majority of whom are the primary caregivers for kids and for aging parents. Specifically, the ACA has stopped insurance companies from denying coverage for children, helped women gain access to preventative services like mammograms, and helped 3.1 million kids stay on their parents health insurance.

President Obama said:

"Moms take care of us. Sick kids, aging parents, grumpy husbands. And I know there are lots of moms out there who often go without the care that they need, or the checkups they know they should get, because they're worrying that co-pay has to go to gas, or groceries, or the new soccer uniform instead. Or worse, they know the unfairness of being charged more for their health care just because they're a woman, or the stress of trying to manage a family budget when health care costs are impinging on it, or trying to insure a sick child only to be told "no" over and over again...

"So we decided that needed to change. In a country as wealthy as this one, there was no reason why a family's security should be determined by the chance of an illness or an accident. We decided to do something about it...

"For three years now, this law has provided real and tangible benefits to millions of Americans. Women in particular now have more control over their own care than ever before. And I'm pleased to be joined today by many women who wrote in to tell us what the Affordable Care Act means to them."

President Obama meets with South Korean President

On Tuesday, President Obama welcomed President Park Geun-hye of South Korea to the White House, marking 60 years of bilateral partnership between our two nations. President Park, South Korea's first female President chose the United States for her first foreign trip.

The two leaders discussed ways to strengthen stability and security in the region. They also discussed the continued implementation of a 2010 trade agreement which has been benefiting both sides.

In remarks following the meeting, the President said:

"We agreed to continuing modernizing our security alliance. Guided by our joint vision, we're investing in the shared capabilities and technologies and missile defenses that allow our forces to operate and succeed together. We are on track for South Korea to assume operational control for the alliance in 2015. And we're determined to be fully prepared for any challenge or threat to our security. And obviously that includes the threat from North Korea."

While visiting the United States, President Park also addressed a joint session of Congress and hosted a dinner honoring the generation of American veterans who served in South Korea.



DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz Celebrates National Teacher Appreciation Week

In honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz posted the following on the DNC blog:

"It's Teacher Appreciation Week.

"As Democrats, we know that our most important investments are the ones we make in our kids. That's why, for years, we've been on the cutting edge of education reform. From FDR signing the G.I. Bill to President Obama overhauling student loans, Democrats have consistently invested to provide our kids with a first-rate education and the tools necessary to drive our economy forward with more job creation and opportunity.

"We also recognize that funding and programs alone won't solve all of our problems. Democrats understand that in order to create world-class institutions of learning, we have to reward, retain, and attract world-class teachers — teachers like my favorite teacher growing up, Francine Botton. Ms. Botton was my fifth and sixth grade teacher at Magnolia Open Elementary School in Long Beach, New York, and like so many teachers across our country, she inspired me and all of my classmates to study hard and dream big. She was part mom, part educator, helping her students realize that anything was possible for us. She picked us up when we were down and pushed us when she knew we could do better.

"Sadly, rather than reward these devoted professionals, Republican politicians continue to vilify our teachers. They use them as scapegoats for tough budgetary challenges and claim that they are part of the problem with our education system. As Democrats, we know that teachers like Ms. Botton are part of the solution — that effective, quality teachers are how we'll be able to provide every child in America with a world-class education.

"President Obama understands this and has led the way with education reforms. Through the RESPECT project, the President has proposed a \$5 billion grant to support states and districts in working with educators to develop innovative solutions that improve the teaching profession at every level. He launched the STEM Master Teacher Corps, an effort to recruit and reward 10,000 teachers in the critical fields of science, technology, engineering and math. He's also invested \$800 million in scaling up innovative education reforms proven to help improve student achievement, and increase high school graduation and college completion rates.

"These initiatives are in addition to the more than \$4 billion our schools have received through Race to the Top, and they complement the President's plan to reform "No Child Left Behind," so that it works for States, not against them.

"As we celebrate "Teacher Appreciation Week" and thank teachers like Ms. Botton, who helped me believe in myself during a time when most kids are unsure of themselves, let's recommit ourselves to supporting the professionals whose job is critical to developing the next generation of leaders, job creators and innovators."

First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden host military mother's day tea



On Thursday, Mrs. Obama and Dr. Biden welcomed military mothers and their families to the White House for a mother's day tea.

The tea also featured a special appearance by H.R.H. Prince Henry of Wales – Prince Harry – who is a Captain in the Army Air Corps in the British Armed Forces and was visiting Washington.

Dr. Biden welcomed the military mothers and families to the

White House, sharing her own story as a proud Blue Star Mom. The Second Lady said that when her son Beau, a soldier in the Delaware Army National Guard, was deployed to Iraq she was overwhelmed by the kindness and support of her community.

Dr. Biden said:

"There were a lot of people who stepped up in different ways to support our family that year. A neighbor shoveled the driveway during a snowstorm. Our church included Beau's name in the church bulletin. And at Natalie's school, her teacher hung a photo of Beau's unit on the wall so that everyone would know that Natalie's daddy was away. Through the whole experience, these acts of kindness meant so much to them and to us.

"While our sons and daughters serve so selflessly having a community share the burden makes all the difference in the world. Today I am here to say thank you for all that you do, for your selflessness and for your sacrifice on behalf of our country."

In her remarks, Mrs. Obama shared the personal philosophy of this year's Military Spouse of the Year, Alicia who says: "I believe each of us has the ability to be as phenomenal as we choose or we are given the opportunity to be. Empower someone and watch them soar."

Mrs. Obama pointed to Alicia as an example of how military moms around the country rise to the challenges presented to them and are heroes in their families and communities.

The First Lady said:

"Those are Alicia's words. And that's what military moms do every day. You all help people soar. You help our country soar. When somebody needs you, whether it's your family, or your community, or your country -- you lift them up. You answer the call every single time. You find a way to fit that meeting into your calendar or stop by that neighbor's house on the way home to lend a hand.

"And even though you've got families to raise and jobs to do all your own, you never complain. And Jill and I say this all the time, as we meet with thousands of military families -- you all just never complain. Never complain. You just keep moving along, getting it done.

"And I hope that you know how much your country appreciates you. I really hope you do. I hope that you know that people across America have your backs, from everyone here at the White House and the Department of Defense to CEOs of some of the largest companies in this country, to doctors and college professors and community and faith leaders in cities all over this country -- people are responding to your service with service of their own.

And that's why Jill and I -- one of the things that we've seen as we've been working with Joining Forces over these past several years -- every time we've issued a call to action on your behalf, whether it's for jobs or educational opportunities or volunteers to do more for you, Americans have responded overwhelmingly, in such positive ways. We haven't had a single person tell us no when we've asked."

Read Dr. Biden and Mrs. Obama's full remarks [here](#).

[President Obama Delivers Ohio State University Commencement Address:](#)



On Sunday, President Obama gave an impassioned speech to the Class of 2013 at Ohio State University where he "dared" the graduates to "dream bigger."

Obama's commended the more-than 10,000 graduates for growing up in uncertain times yet always persevering and becoming better citizens because of it.

The President said:

"Class of 2013, your path to this moment has wound you through years of breathtaking change. You were born as

freedom forced its way through a wall in Berlin, tore down an Iron Curtain across Europe. You were educated in an era of instant information that put the world's accumulated knowledge at your fingertips. And you came of age as terror touched our shores; and an historic recession spread across the nation; and a new generation signed up to go to war.

"So you've been tested and you've been tempered by events that your parents and I never imagined we'd see when we sat where you sit. And yet, despite all this, or perhaps because of it, yours has become a generation possessed with that most American of ideas -- that people who love their country can change it for the better. For all the turmoil, for all the times you've been let down, or frustrated at the hand that you've been dealt, what I have seen -- what we have witnessed from your generation -- is that perennial, quintessentially American value of optimism; altruism; empathy; tolerance; a sense of community; a sense of service -- all of which makes me optimistic for our future."

Watch the President's commencement address [here](#):

Issues in the News

Talking Points: Middle Class Jobs & Opportunity Tour – Austin, Texas

- President Obama traveled to Austin, Texas today kicking off a series of “Middle Class Jobs & Opportunity Tours.”
- This trip represents the core of President Obama’s agenda and his North Star: creating a strong and thriving economy built on good middle class jobs.
- The President believes the economy is strongest and grows when hard work is rewarded and everyone has a fair shot. That’s why he ran for President. It’s been his focus since taking office and it’s the focus of this trip to Austin.
- The President talked at length about his plan to strengthen the middle class during the State of the Union. The plan focuses on three goals:
 - Jobs: Make America a magnet for good jobs
 - Skills: Help workers earn the skills they need to do those jobs
 - Opportunity: Make sure hard work leads to a decent living
- Each stop in Austin highlights these initiatives and deals with one of these three goals: jobs, skills, and opportunity. The trip represents his core belief that folks deserve a fair shot and an economy built by a strong and vibrant middle class.
- While in Texas, the President announced two important executive actions that will strengthen the economy. These steps are not a replacement for the bold action Congress needs to take to create jobs and grow the economy, but they will make a difference. These executive actions demonstrate President Obama’s continuing commitment to do everything possible to fuel economic growth and strengthen the middle class.
- The President will continue meeting with members of Congress and push them to take action on our economic initiatives, but he will not wait for Congress to act. He will do everything in his power to create jobs and strengthen the economy.

Details on the executive actions:

Executive Action - Manufacturing Hubs

First, the President will launch competitions for three new Manufacturing Innovation Institutes, following through on a promise he made during the State of the Union. These Manufacturing Innovation Institutes are partnerships between businesses, universities and community colleges, and the government meant to develop and build manufacturing technologies and capabilities that will help manufacturers and workers in the United States create good jobs.

The President will call on Congress to create a one-time \$1 billion investment to create a network of 15 manufacturing innovation institutes across the country. This has bipartisan support in the Senate. In fact, when Senators Brown and Blunt offered an amendment to the budget resolution calling for investments in manufacturing hubs it was unanimously supported.

It’s time for Congress to get this done. The President will tour Applied Materials, exactly the kind of company could thrive on the investment that would come from these manufacturing institutes. These hubs would encourage firms like Applied Materials to invest, innovate, and create high quality jobs in the United States.

We expect a lot of interest from across America and a competitive process to win one of these hubs.

Executive Order – Open Data

The President will also an executive order that requires newly released government data be made freely available in open, machine-readable formats, while ensuring privacy, confidentiality, and security. This will make reams of data that was previously inaccessible or unmanageable ready available to entrepreneurs, researchers, and others who will use the files to create new services and products, build businesses, and create jobs.

One of the technology entrepreneurs President Obama will meet with in Austin uses government data to help expand their company, create jobs, and support the local community.

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