

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

December 14, 2012

[President Obama Delivers Statement on Tragic Shooting in Connecticut](#)

Following reports on Friday of a shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their loved ones. In response to this tragedy, the President delivered a statement, in which he said:

"We've endured too many of these tragedies in the past few years. And each time I learn the news I react not as a President, but as anybody else would -- as a parent. And that was especially true today. I know there's not a parent in America who doesn't feel the same overwhelming grief that I do.

"The majority of those who died today were children -- beautiful little kids between the ages of 5 and 10 years old. They had their entire lives ahead of them -- birthdays, graduations, weddings, kids of their own. Among the fallen were also teachers -- men and women who devoted their lives to helping our children fulfill their dreams."

You can watch President Obama's statement [here](#).

[The President Visits Diesel Plant in Detroit to Talk About Investing in American Workers and Extending Tax Cuts for the Middle Class](#)

On Monday, President Obama visited the Daimler Detroit Diesel Plant in Michigan, where he toured the facility and spoke to workers about the need to continue investing in the American worker and the importance of extending tax cuts for America's middle-class families. The President also announced that Daimler is investing \$120 million into the plant, to support 115 new jobs building transmissions and turbochargers.

During his remarks, President Obama said:

"And I believe -- and I've been saying this not just for the last six months or the last year, but ever since I got into public office -- I believe America only succeeds and thrives when we've got a strong and growing middle class. That's what I believe. I believe we're at our best when everybody who works hard has a chance to get ahead; that they can get a job that pays the bills; that they've got health care that they can count on; that they can retire with dignity and respect, maybe take a vacation once in a while -- nothing fancy, just being able to pack up the kids and go someplace and enjoy time with people that you love; make sure that your kids can go to a good school; make sure they can aspire to whatever they want to be.

"That idea is what built America. That's the idea that built Michigan. That's the idea that's at the heart of the economic plan I've been



talking about all year long on the campaign trail. I want to give more Americans the chance to earn the skills that businesses are looking for right now, and give our kids the kind of education they need to succeed in the 21st century. I want to make sure America leads the world in research and technology and clean energy. I want to put people back to work rebuilding our roads and our bridges and our schools. That's how we grow an economy.

You can watch the President's speech [here](#).

[Echoing President Obama's Detroit Speech, DNC Chair Releases Statement Condemning Republican Governor Rick Snyder for Signing So-Called "Right to Work" Legislation into Law in Michigan](#)

This Tuesday, despite the outcry of hardworking families across the state of Michigan, Governor Rick Snyder signed into law so-called "right to work" legislation pushed through the state legislature by the Michigan GOP. During the President's speech to workers at a Detroit diesel plant the previous day, he spoke out against these efforts and said, "What they're really talking about is giving you the right to work for less money."

On Tuesday evening, DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz released a statement echoing President Obama's comments after Governor Snyder signed this anti-worker legislation into law. The statement said:

"Today, on the very same day that more than 12,000 people in Michigan traveled to the state Capitol to decry the so-called 'right to work' legislation that Michigan Republicans rammed through the state legislature, Governor Rick Snyder clearly and unapologetically ignored those voices and the voices of so many hardworking families across the state. This regressive anti-worker legislation has nothing to do with the right to work – unless we're talking about the right for middle-class Michiganders to work for lower pay and fewer benefits, without the ability to bargain for better wages. In no way whatsoever will that move Michigan's working families forward, and Governor Snyder knows that.

"Michigan Republicans should also know that now is not the time for partisan political games – or bowing to the self-interested pressures of corporate CEOs and billionaire GOP donors like Dick DeVos and the Koch brothers. It's time for our leaders to be doing everything they possibly can to keep creating good jobs for the middle class, keep encouraging businesses to invest in American workers, and keep helping hardworking families regain a sense of economic certainty. Today's actions by Governor Snyder and his Republican allies are diametrically opposed to that kind of progress, and quite simply, they are an affront to Michigan workers and a cynical attempt to take middle-class families backward."

[The President Holds Conference Call with Bipartisan Group of Mayors and Community Leaders To Discuss Actions Needed for our Economic Recovery](#)

President Obama held a conference call on Wednesday with a bipartisan group of mayors and community leaders from across the country. During the call, the President discussed actions we need to take to keep growing our economy and reduce the deficit in a responsible manner – including the need to prevent income taxes from going up on middle-class families. A number of the mayors on the call also invited constituents who had shared what a \$2,000 tax hike next year would mean for their families.

To see some photographs of individuals who participated in Wednesday's call, go [here](#).

[President Obama Celebrates Hanukkah with Jewish Community at White House Reception](#)

On Thursday, the President and First Lady welcomed leaders from the Jewish community to the White House for a reception celebrating the sixth night of Hanukkah. President Obama delivered remarks at the reception, saying:



"Over 2,000 years ago, a tyrant forbade the Israelites from practicing their religion and his forces desecrated the Holy Temple. So Judah Maccabee gathered a small band of believers to fight this oppression, and against all odds, they prevailed. And the Maccabees liberated Jerusalem and restored the faith of its people. And when they went to reclaim the Temple, the people of Jerusalem received another gift from God -- the oil that should have lasted only one night burned for eight. That miraculous flame brought hope and it sustained the faithful.

"To this day, Jews around the world honor the Maccabees' everlasting hope that light will overcome the darkness, that goodness will overcome evil, and that faith can accomplish miracles. The celebration this year was a tribute to more recent examples of resilience and optimism as well. The 90-year-old menorah used in the ceremony came from the Temple Israel synagogue in Long Beach, New York, which was badly damaged by Hurricane Sandy. It served as a symbol of perseverance, and as a reminder of those who are still recovering from Sandy's destruction."

You can watch video of the reception [here](#).