

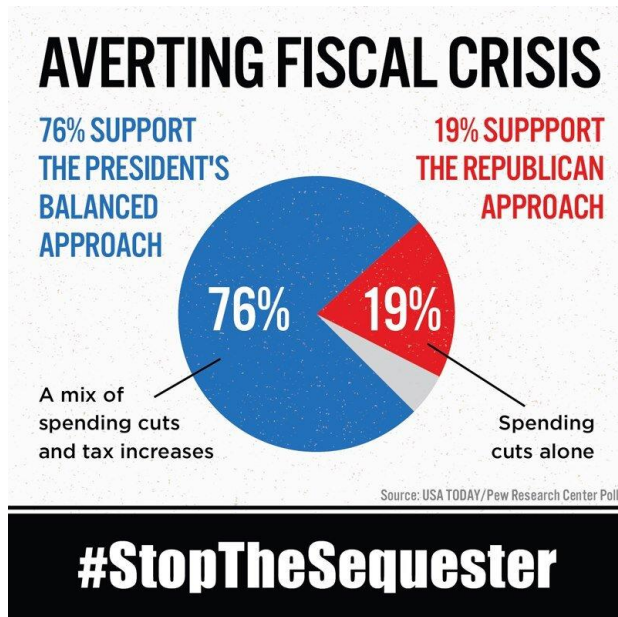
THE  
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

# WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

February 22, 2013

## Working to Stop the Sequester



One week from today, the inaction of Republicans in Congress could force billions of dollars in automatic spending cuts that would hurt our economy, slow our recovery, and could put more than 2 million Americans out of work.

The unbelievable thing is -- this crisis is completely avoidable. Yet, instead of working on a plan to avoid this sequester, John Boehner and the Republican leadership sent Congress home for the week.

Once again, Republicans are putting the interests of the wealthy and corporate jet owners above protecting middle class Americans and strengthening our economy. But the message from the American public is clear: 76% of Americans—including 56 percent of Republicans—prefer President Obama's balanced approach to deficit reduction.

Entitled #StoptheSequester, our new video shows that across the country local communities are bracing for the

impacts associated with the drastic automatic spending cuts which Republicans are prepared to let happen because they'd rather protect tax breaks and loopholes for the wealthy and corporations than look out for middle class families and our economy.

Republicans may have thought that by going home they could escape scrutiny for refusing to accept a balanced approach to avoiding sequester and getting our fiscal house in order - but this video shows that clearly is not the case.

Watch our video [here](#).

## [President Obama Speaks on Avoiding the Sequester](#)



In remarks on Tuesday at the White House, President Obama continued to stress the devastating impact of allowing the sequester to take effect on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Surrounded by first responders whose jobs would be threatened, the President called on Republicans in Congress to join with Democrats and avert these avoidable cuts – which will diminish our economic growth and place hundreds of thousands of American jobs at risk.

In his remarks, President Obama laid out what is at stake for all Americans if Congress allows this reckless approach to take place:

“Now, if Congress allows this meat-cleaver approach to take place, it will jeopardize our military readiness; it will eviscerate job-creating investments in education and energy and medical research. It won’t consider whether we’re cutting some bloated program that has outlived its usefulness, or a vital service that Americans depend on every single day. It doesn’t make those distinctions.”

President Obama explained the choice facing Republicans, urging them to take immediate and meaningful action, saying:

“So now Republicans in Congress face a simple choice: Are they willing to compromise to protect vital investments in education and health care and national security and all the jobs that depend on them? Or would they rather put hundreds of thousands of jobs and our entire economy at risk just to protect a few special interest tax loopholes that benefit only the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations? That’s the choice.”

The President called on Congress to find a balanced approach to deficit reduction that combines tax reform with additional spending reforms – an approach that doesn’t harm our economy or the middle class:

“Congress can do the right thing. We can avert just one more Washington-manufactured problem that slows our recovery, and bring down our deficits in a balanced, responsible way. That’s my goal. That’s what would do right by these first responders. That’s what would do right by America’s middle class. That’s what I’m going to be working on and fighting for not just over the next few weeks, but over the next few years.”

Watch the President’s remarks on the sequester [here](#).

### **Vice President Biden Addresses Gun Safety Conference**

On Thursday, Vice President Biden delivered remarks at a gun safety conference in Danbury, Connecticut.

The Vice President reaffirmed the administration's commitment to improving gun safety, declaring that there is a "moral price to be paid for inaction."

Speaking just west of Newtown, Connecticut, the Vice President called lawmakers and advocates to action for the young children and for everyone who has lost their lives since then, saying:



"We can't remain silent. We have to speak for all those voices. We have to speak for those 20 beautiful children who died 69 days ago, 12 miles from here. They can't speak for themselves. We have to speak for the voice of those six adults who died trying to save the children in their care that day who can't speak for themselves. You have to speak for the 1,900 people who have died at the other end of a gun just since Sandy Hook in this country -- 1,900 just since that day."

### **Vice President Biden Presents Medals of Valor to Public Safety Officers**

On Wednesday, Vice President Biden presided over a Medal of Valor ceremony honoring 18 public safety officers for exhibiting exceptional courage.

Joined by Attorney General Eric Holder, The Vice President spoke of the bravery of the men and women being honored and paid tribute to the spouses of the recipients who had lost their lives in the line of duty.



"You can't explain it, but you know it when you see it. I see it in the shield over someone's heart. I see it in the men and women who are sitting here before us today...Thank God for you. You're from different backgrounds, but you're the glue that literally binds communities together at times of stress. You're that face that shows up for a woman on the second floor of a burning building just when she thinks it's all over for her... The amazing thing about all of you is that the very things you do when you're on duty to save people's lives, you do when you're off duty. There's no separation."