

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

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This week, President Obama marked the one year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act with a surprise phone call to Erick Moberg, a beneficiary of the new law. Also this week, President Obama traveled to Latin America to strengthen our economic ties and promote American exports. In addition, the President delivered remarks on the United States's response to the situation in Libya. On Monday, Vice President Biden joined Secretary of Education Arne Duncan at Howard High School of Technology in Delaware to celebrate the first anniversary of Race to the Top. On Tuesday, Vice President Biden reaffirmed America's support for the people of Japan. Also on Tuesday, Vice President Biden spoke at the Grad Nation Conference in Washington, DC, talking about how we can win the future by boosting college completion rates in the United States.

One Year Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act: Wednesday marked the one year anniversary of President Obama signing the Affordable Care Act into law. President Obama marked the anniversary with a surprise phone call to Erick Moberg, a senior at Michigan State University who, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, is now able to stay on his mother's health insurance plan while pursuing his dream of going to medical school. You can watch a video of President Obama's call to Erick [HERE](#).



In the 12 months since the law was enacted, Americans young and old have already begun to enjoy new patient protections and benefits - insurance companies can no longer deny coverage to children with pre-existing conditions and young adults can stay on their parents' insurance until age 26; new health insurance plans must offer free preventive care; insurance companies can no longer impose lifetime caps on Americans' care when they most need it; and seniors are offered free wellness visits and aid to help defray the cost of prescription drugs.

In addition, Vice President Biden on Wednesday commemorated the anniversary with a video that highlighted the work it took to pass the law, and detailed how Americans and small businesses are already benefitting from the Affordable Care Act. You can watch the video [HERE](#).

The President on Libya: This week, President Obama delivered remarks on the United States's response to the situation in Libya, authorizing the United States's Armed Forces to begin a limited military action in Libya in support of an international effort to protect Libyan civilians. In his remarks, the President said:

"In this effort, the United States is acting with a broad coalition that is committed to enforcing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973, which calls for the protection of the Libyan people. As a part of this effort, the United States will contribute our unique capabilities at the front end of the mission to protect Libyan civilians, and enable the enforcement of a no-fly zone that will be led by our international partners.

"Today we are part of a broad coalition. We are answering the calls of a threatened people. And we are acting in the interests of the United States and the world."

"We're Going To Stand With You": On Tuesday, Vice President Biden visited the Japanese Embassy to sign a book of condolences and pledge the United States's help in dealing with the effects of the deadly earthquake and tsunami. The Vice President reaffirmed the United States's support for the people of Japan as they begin to rebuild.

Strengthening Economic Relationships: This week, President Obama visited Latin America to focus on joint economic opportunities and promote American exports. He met with President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil in Brasilia, President Sebastian Piñera of Chile in Santiago, and President Mauricio Funes of El Salvador in San Salvador. In a speech to the people of Brazil, the President said:

"Together we can advance our common prosperity. As two of the world's largest economies, we worked side by side during the financial crisis to restore growth and confidence. And to keep our economies

growing, we know what's necessary in both of our nations. We need a skilled, educated workforce -- which is why American and Brazilian companies have pledged to help increase student exchanges between our two nations.

"We need a commitment to innovation and technology -- which is why we've agreed to expand cooperation between our scientists, researchers, and engineers. We need world-class infrastructure -- which is why American companies want to help you build and prepare this city for Olympic success.

"In a global economy, the United States and Brazil should expand trade, expand investment, so that we create new jobs and new opportunities in both of our nations. And that's why we're working to break down barriers to doing business. That's why we're building closer relationships between our workers and our entrepreneurs."



Speaking about the need to find paths for joint economic growth and American exports in Santiago, Chile, President Obama said:

"I believe that Latin America is more important to the prosperity and security of the United States than ever before. With no other region does the United States have so many connections. And nowhere do we see that more than in the tens of millions of Hispanic Americans across the United States, who enrich our society, grow our economy and strengthen our nation every single day.

"And I believe Latin America is only going to become more important to the United States, especially to our economy. Trade between the United States and Latin America has surged. We buy more of your products, more of your goods than any other country, and we invest more in this region than any other country.

"But even more than interests, we're bound by shared values. In each other's journey we see reflections of our own. Colonists who broke free from empires. Pioneers who opened new frontiers. Citizens who have struggled to expand our nations' promise to all people -- men and women, white, black and brown. We're people of faith who must remember that all of us -- especially the most fortunate among us -- must do our part, especially for the least among us. We're citizens who know that ensuring that democracies deliver for our people must be the work of all.

"This is our common history. This is our common heritage. We are all Americans. Todos somos Americanos."

At an official dinner with Salvadoran President Mauricio Funes in San Salvador, President Obama said:

"Just about every Salvadoran has a loved one or a friend in the United States -- husbands and sons, mothers and daughters -- working hard, sacrificing every day. They strengthen my country, and they mean so much to El Salvador. And they're very much in our thoughts tonight.

"But I also want take this opportunity to pay tribute to the side of this nation that is too often overlooked, which is just as real and just as important. It's the El Salvador that endures -- even when the earth shakes and the floodwaters rise -- because Salvadorans are a people who persevere.

"And it's the El Salvador that gets up every day and goes to work -- students, merchants, farmers, young entrepreneurs, business people -- who remind us that building a just and prosperous future cannot be the work of government alone; it must be the responsibility of all who love their countries."

Race to the Top Program: On Monday, Vice President Biden and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan visited Howard High School of Technology in Delaware to celebrate the first anniversary of Race to the Top. Delaware received \$100 million in Race to the Top funding one year ago, and that grant has helped the state make significant progress in improving its education system. At Howard High, Vice President Biden said:

"For less than one percent of what America spends on education each year, we were able to help jump-start some of the farthest reaching education reforms in history. All across the country, Race to the Top is inspiring the same kind of change we're seeing here in Delaware."

Call to Action on College Completion: On Tuesday, Vice President Biden spoke at the Grad Nation Conference in Washington, DC. He spoke about the need to boost college completion in the United States and announced that the Department of Education is launching a new grant competition to reward colleges that create innovative plans for boosting completion, like summer academic boot camps for students between high school and their freshman year, redesigned courses that make learning more interactive, and emergency financial aid for unexpected crises. In remarks at the conference, the Vice President said:



"Right now we've got an education system that works like a funnel when we need it to work like a pipeline. We have to make the same commitment to getting folks across the graduation stage that we did to getting them into the registrar's office."

Key Issues in the News and Background

Talking Points: Winning the Future by Making Our Global Partnerships Stronger, Investing in Education, and Keeping Health Care Affordable

- If we want to win the future, we have to strengthen America's economic partnerships around the world in order to create jobs here at home. That's why President Obama traveled to Latin America to talk about what we can do to create even more American jobs by strengthening the United States's economic relationship with Chile, El Salvador, and Brazil.
- The more goods and services we can sell overseas, the more jobs we can create here in the United States. Every \$1 billion in American exports supports more than 5,000 U.S. jobs.
- In 2009, U.S. exports to Chile were estimated at \$13 billion, and are believed to support 70,000 American jobs.
- In 2010, U.S. exports to El Salvador reached \$2.4 billion, supporting an estimated 13,000 jobs across the United States.
- At the same time, as we continue monitoring the crisis in Japan, we are reminded that we have a responsibility to learn from such events in order to better safeguard the well-being of the American people.
- Nuclear power is a critical part of America's clean energy future. The safety and security of our nuclear facilities has been and will continue to be a top priority. President Obama has asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to undertake a comprehensive review of the safety of America's nuclear plants.
- On Monday Vice President Biden and Education Secretary Arne Duncan visited Howard High School in Wilmington, Delaware, to mark the first anniversary of the first Race to the Top awards, which began transformative and successful investments in America's education system.
- At Howard High School, Vice President Biden and Secretary Duncan shone a spotlight on the success of teacher collaboration in Delaware and the state's success in taking steps toward improving its education system – success that is in part the result of Race to the Top funding. They talked about how winning the future in education will require shared responsibility from everyone involved, as well as state and local reform and a focus on achieving results.
- In just 12 months, the Affordable Care Act has already given Americans more freedom and greater control over their health care choices.
- The Affordable Care Act has offered millions of Americans lower health care costs, higher quality coverage, and new coverage options – like enabling young Americans up to age 26 to stay on their parents' plans and preventing insurance companies from denying children coverage because of a pre-existing condition.

- The Affordable Care Act also offers states the flexibility and resources they need to provide the best possible coverage to the people who live within their borders. To date, all 50 states have received a combined total of \$2.8 billion from the Affordable Care Act.
- President Obama is open to ideas that will make health care better and more affordable for all Americans. But he won't go back to the days when insurance could deny Americans coverage because of pre-existing conditions or drop Americans' coverage when they get sick.
- Instead of going back to the battles of the last two years, President Obama wants to move America forward and fix what needs fixing. We have to work together to grow our economy, out-compete the world, and win the future.