



November 15, 2013

[Mo Elleithee: I'm eager and proud to run on Obamacare in 2014](#)

After the Department of Health and Human Services released enrollment numbers for the first month of the Affordable Care Act's open enrollment period, DNC Communications Director, Mo Elleithee wrote the following [blog](#).

"We will tattoo it to their forehead in 2014."

That's what RNC Chair Reince Priebus said this weekend about how the GOP would try to use Obamacare to beat Democratic candidates in 2014.

By tattooing it to our foreheads.

Well, I've got a message for Reince – bring it on.

You see, I'm a Democrat who – despite all the glitches -- is anxious, eager and proud to run ON the Affordable Care Act.

Why?

Because it's working, and people are already getting better, more affordable health care than before.

People no longer have to worry about losing coverage for preexisting conditions.

Young Americans are able to stay on the parent's health plan for longer.

People across the country are able to shop around and find better coverage for less money.

And 500,000 Americans have, *so far*, been able to sign up for health coverage through the federal exchange, state exchanges, and Medicaid expansion.

That's half a million Americans who did not have health insurance, that now do. And one million more consumers are ready to get the plan that's right for them. And that's just in one month.

Has it been perfect? No. President Obama and Democrats are the first to admit the website challenges have been unacceptable. Would more people be able to enroll if the website was working properly – yes, of course. And they will.

But you know what else would help get more people enrolled? If Republicans would stop their concerted effort to block the law at every turn. If more Republican governors would set up state exchanges or expand Medicaid. If Republican lawmakers would stop holding ridiculous hearings to score political points, and help folks figure out how to fix the problems.

But they've never really been interested in that. **They don't want Obamacare to work. They are actually afraid of it working. Why? Because they know once people begin to enjoy the benefits that come with a better and more affordable health care system, they won't want to give them up.**

And that terrifies Republicans to no end. So much so, that they even shut down the government and risked us defaulting on our national bills in order to stop it.

Look, we've got some work to do to fix the glitches and get more people enrolled. We did that during the Bush Administration when Medicare Part D had a rocky rollout, and we can do it again now.

Continued

I'm eager and proud to run on Obamacare in 2014 - Mo Elleithee (Cont.)

Will that stop the Republicans from trying to kill it? Nope. Ted Cruz has already signaled that he's open to another shutdown in January to try to stop Obamacare. *Just* as President Obama unveiled some administrative fixes to the program, Marco Rubio said that, "by no means should we be exploring ways to fix this law." John Boehner renewed his commitment to "targeted strikes" aimed at repealing Obamacare, regardless of its impact on the American people.

They are going to keep fighting this to the bitter end.

Talk about tone deaf.

This is what they want to expend their energy on. Nothing else. (Well, except for restricting women's health care decisions. They'll still keep trying that. Oh, and blocking commonsense immigration reform. That appears to be a priority as well.)

No wonder a poll this week showed Congressional approval at an all-time low: 9%!

So, yeah. I'm eager, anxious and proud to run on this in 2014.

Because under the Affordable Care Act, half a million people have signed up for health care so far, and that number is only going to get higher. The Republican plan is to try to take that away.

Because under the Affordable Care Act, being a woman is no longer a preexisting condition. The Republican plan would not only make it one again, but they would impose even more restrictions on women's health care access.

Because every single Democratic member of Congress is committed to finding the solutions to make the Affordable Care Act work even better. The Republican Party? It shut down the federal government, delivering a \$24 billion hit to our economy.

I'll take that fight any day of the week.

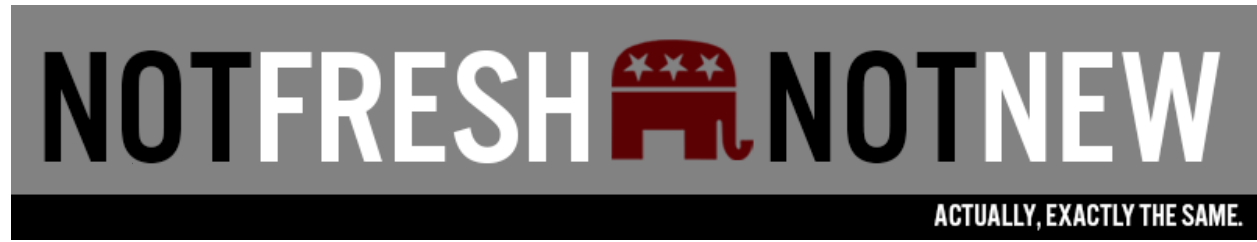
Republicans tried to "tattoo" Obamacare to our foreheads in 2012. We won. They tried it in Virginia in 2013. We won.

Now they want to try it again in 2014?

OK.

I'll buy the ink.

[New DNC Video "Not So Fresh And New"](#)



Last Sunday, on CNN's *State of the Union* RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said, "We are going to be the party that is fresh and new in 2016."

The truth is, today's GOP is the same extreme, ideological and out of touch party that turned voters away in droves in 2012, and again in the 2013 elections. In response, the DNC released the web video, "Not So Fresh and New" to show how the GOP hasn't changed one bit.



Watch the New DNC Video [here](#).

In the States

- This week, the State Board of Elections declared [Mark Herring the winner](#) in the race for Virginia Attorney General by 164 votes out of more than 2 million. The final count, a week after Election Day, means that Democrats will hold all five statewide offices (Governor, Lt. Governor, AG and two U.S. Senators) in Virginia for the first time [in more than 40 years](#). This is the first election of a Governor in Virginia of the same party as the President of the United States since 1977.
- On Wednesday, Kiara Pesante, DNC Director of African American Media, and Joshua Pugh, Michigan Democratic Party Communications Director, [released a joint memo](#) on the Michigan GOP's failed rebrand. After the GOP promised to do better to reach the African American community, Pesante and Pugh wrote, "Haven't we heard this story before? Republicans in Michigan and Washington have promised repeatedly that this time will be different, this time they'll actually listen to the needs of key constituencies. But, after Republican Secretary of State Ruth Johnson's crusade to [make it harder for African Americans to vote](#), the GOP's ongoing campaign to prevent 7.1 million uninsured black Americans from accessing affordable health care, and Republican Gov. Rick Snyder's Emergency Manager law [ensuring that over half of black Michiganders no longer have the right to vote for local elected officials](#), the GOP has yet again proven that they are so far out of touch, they can't even see it." Read the full memo [here](#).
- On Friday, [DFM Research](#) released a poll out of Kentucky with some really positive numbers for Democrats. The Democratic Party's favorability rating is 6% higher than the GOP and 9% higher than the Tea Party in the state. 44% of Kentuckians view the Democratic Party favorably, 38% view the GOP favorably and 35% view the Tea Party favorably. At the same time, Democrat Allison Lundergran Grimes is in a head-to-head battle with Republican Leader Mitch McConnell.

Democratic Leaders Recognize Veterans Day

On Monday, Democrats took time to recognize Veterans Day. President hosted a breakfast for veterans and their families, and visiting Arlington National Cemetery to take part in a wreath-laying ceremony.



Speaking to veterans, President Obama said, "In the life of our nation, across every generation, there are those who stand apart. They step up, they raise their hands, they take that oath. They put on the uniform and they put their lives on the line. They do this so that the rest of us might live in a country and a world that is safer, freer, and more just. This is the gift they've given us. This is the debt that we owe them."

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz also recognized Veterans Day, releasing a statement honoring servicemembers and advocating for a

continued commitment to them after they return home.

Wasserman Schultz said, "But let us remember that every day offers a new opportunity to express our thanks to servicemembers -- and that our actions must back up our words. I am proud that President Obama has made it a top priority to help veterans gain access to educational opportunities that will lead to jobs and a better quality of life for their families."

[First Lady Speaks to the College Class of 2020 at DC High School](#)

On Tuesday, First Lady Michelle Obama spoke to sophomores at Bell Multicultural High School in Washington, DC.



The First Lady discussed the importance of a college education, and explained the President's "North Star" goal—that by the year 2020, the US will have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.

Click [here](#) to view the First Lady's remarks.

