



Second-Term Split

As Obama Loses Credibility, Democrats Aren't Shy About Breaking With Obama

AS OBAMACARE FALTERS, DEMOCRATS ARE RUNNING AWAY FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE ACHIEVEMENT

"Anger Among Democrats Over The Rollout Of ObamaCare Is Deep." "Anger among Democrats over the rollout of ObamaCare is deep. The third aide, who works for a senator up for reelection in 2014, said the White House had 's--t the bed.' Now, the staffer said, the president's sinking approval ratings are an additional problem." (Amie Parnes, "WH-DSCC ObamaCare Powwow," [The Hill](#), 12/5/13)

- **ObamaCare's Disastrous Rollout Has Left Democrats "Frustrated, Bitter And Angry."** "They are letting it be known that House and Senate Democrats are increasingly frustrated, bitter and angry with the White House over ObamaCare's botched rollout, and that the president's mea culpa in a news conference last week failed to soothe any ill will." (Amie Parnes, "Obama Hits New Low With Dems," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 11/20/13)
- **At A WH-DSCC ObamaCare Meeting, One Senior Democratic Aide On Obamacare: "I Know These Guys Are Nervous As Hell ... It's A Nightmare."** "But optimism vanished as problems with the healthcare law mounted. 'I know these guys are nervous as hell,' said a second senior Democratic aide. 'I mean, all of their jobs are on the line because this is the thing making the biggest waves lately. It's a nightmare.'" (Amie Parnes, "WH-DSCC ObamaCare Powwow," [The Hill](#), 12/5/13)
- **2014 Democrats Are "Freaking Out" According To A Senior Democratic Aide.** "'They're freaking out, as they should be,' said one senior Senate Democratic aide, adding that the rollout continues to be 'a lasting mess.'" (Amie Parnes, "Obama Hits New Low With Dems," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 11/20/13)

Democrats In Swing Districts Are Likely To Avoid Obama At All Costs. "The White House hasn't indicated just how much Obama will help campaign for those who are up for reelection next year. The president, who has been attending a string of fundraisers in recent days — including a West Coast check-collecting trip this weekend — is expected to help lawmakers and both campaign committees throughout 2014. But as the healthcare problems continue to persist, lawmakers in swing districts aren't sure that's the best idea, especially because, according to one Democrat, 'systemically you have what is a long-term problem.'" (Amie Parnes, "Obama Hits New Low With Dems," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 11/20/13)

- **"'It Wouldn't Be Helpful,' The Senate Aide Said."** (Amie Parnes, "Obama Hits New Low With Dems," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 11/20/13)
- **"President Barack Obama's Credibility May Have Taken A Big Hit With Voters, But He's Also In Serious Danger Of Permanently Losing The Trust Of Democrats In Congress."** (Jonathan Allen And Jake Sherman, "Trust Frays Between President Obama, Democrats," [Politico](#), 11/14/13)

After The ObamaCare Debacle, It's Tough For Democrats To Have Faith In The President. "The ObamaCare debacle has been bad enough that it's tough for Democrats to take on faith that the president can fix the problems. (Jonathan Allen And Jake Sherman, "Trust Frays Between President Obama, Democrats," [Politico](#), 11/14/13)

- **House Democrat And Obama Supporter: "I Don't Know How He F—Ed This Up So Badly."** "I don't know how he f—ed this up so badly," said one House Democrat who has been very supportive of Obama in the past." (Jonathan Allen And Jake Sherman, "Trust Frays Between President Obama, Democrats," [Politico](#), 11/14/13)

Rep Michael Capuano (D-MA) Says The ObamaCare Debacle Has Shaken His Faith In Obama's Ability To Foresee And Address Future Issues. "Rep. Michael Capuano (D-Mass.) told McDonough he was happy that the president was trying to address the problems but that the episode shook his faith in the administration's ability to foresee and address future issues. (Jonathan Allen And Jake Sherman, "Trust Frays Between President Obama, Democrats," [Politico](#), 11/14/13)

- **Capuano: Obama Should Delay The Mandate.** "In particular, Capuano said, members of his staff have had just as much trouble signing up for the new exchanges as Americans across the country. He told McDonough the president should delay the mandate that individuals buy insurance or pay a penalty, which is the vital mechanism for constraining prices for people who buy coverage through the exchanges." (Jonathan Allen And Jake Sherman, "Trust Frays Between President Obama, Democrats," [Politico](#), 11/14/13)

"Rep. Corrine Brown (D-Fla.) Even Chided The White House For Failing To Set Up A Way For Consumers To Sign Up For Insurance Through Smartphone Apps." (Jonathan Allen And Jake Sherman, "Trust Frays Between President Obama, Democrats," [Politico](#), 11/14/13)

Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA): Obama Was Probably A "Little Too Overconfident And The Rhetoric, Perhaps, Got A Little Hyperbolic In Terms Of How Perfect This Is." "Rep. Jim Moran (D-Va.), who passionately defended the law in the closed-door meeting Thursday, acknowledged in an interview that the White House was probably a 'little too overconfident and the rhetoric, perhaps, got a little hyperbolic in terms of how perfect this is.' But he also acknowledged it is more difficult for House Democrats to sign onto the White House's promises right now, particularly the assurances that the website will be fixed by the end of the month." (Jonathan Allen And Jake Sherman, "Trust Frays Between President Obama, Democrats," [Politico](#), 11/14/13)

Even Blue State Democrats Facing Reelection Next Year Have Joined Red State Democrats To Distance Themselves From The ObamaCare Rollout. "It's not just red-state Democrats, like Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu, distancing themselves from the law. It's blue-state senators like Oregon's Jeff Merkley and New Hampshire's Jeanne Shaheen -- and top blue-state recruits like Michigan's Gary Peters and Iowa's Bruce Braley, who voted for GOP legislation Friday that the White House said would 'gut' the law." (Josh Kraushaar, "Why ObamaCare Is On Life Support," [National Journal](#), 11/18/13)

TOP DEMOCRATS ARE AT ODDS WITH OBAMA OVER HIS IRAN POLICY

Democrats Are Worried That House Democratic Leaders Are Close To Joining House GOP Leaders On A Bipartisan Measure To Counter The White House's Iran Strategy. "Multiple Democrats on Capitol Hill are worried that House Democratic leaders are close to joining with House GOP leaders to support a bipartisan measure that could undermine the White House's efforts to reach a long term deal curbing Iran's nuclear program, I'm told by sources involved in discussions." (Greg Sergeant, "Fears Mount That Dems Will Undermine White House On Iran," [The Washington Post](#), 12/6/13)

- **"The Worry Is That Dem Rep. Steny Hoyer, The Number Two House Dem, May Join With GOP Rep. Eric Cantor On A Resolution Or Bill."** "The worry is that Dem Rep. Steny Hoyer, the number two House Dem, may join with GOP Rep. Eric Cantor on a resolution or bill that will either

criticize the current temporary deal with Iran, or call for a new round of sanctions, or set as U.S. policy some strict parameters on a final deal with Iran, such as opposition to any continued uranium enrichment, House Democratic aides say. House Dems and outside foreign policy observers have communicated such worries to Hoyer's office, sources add." (Greg Sergeant, "Fears Mount That Dems Will Undermine White House On Iran," [The Washington Post](#), 12/6/13)

- **"But Now That A Bill Has Been Produced, And Could Be Joined By Hoyer, That Significantly Ratchets Up Worries That Congress Could Very Well Act In A Way That Scuttles Hopes For A Long Term Deal."** (Greg Sergeant, "Fears Mount That Dems Will Undermine White House On Iran," [The Washington Post](#), 12/6/13)
- **"Those Wary Of A Possible Hoyer-Cantor Measure Point Out That The Two Have Previously Collaborated On Measures Relating To U.S. Policy In The Middle East."** (Greg Sergeant, "Fears Mount That Dems Will Undermine White House On Iran," [The Washington Post](#), 12/6/13)

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ) Criticized The Obama Administration For Urging Congress Not To Pass New Sanctions On Iran. "Sen. Robert Menendez on Wednesday sharply criticized the Obama administration for urging Congress not to pass new sanctions on Iran." (Burgess Everett, "Menendez: White House 'Fear-Mongering' On Iran," [Politico](#), 11/27/13)

- **Menendez: "What I Don't Appreciate Is When I Hear Remarks Out Of The White House Spokesman That Say...If We're Pursuing Sanctions Then We're Marching The Country Off To War, You Know. I Think That That's Way Over The Top. I Think That's Fear-Mongering."** Q: "Senator, are you disappointed in the State Department, in Secretary Kerry about the way that this deal has gone down?" MENENDEZ: "No. Look, I get what the administration and the State Department are trying to do and I respect what they're trying to do. What I don't appreciate is when I hear remarks out of the White House spokesman that say that it's -- if we're pursuing sanctions then we're marching the country off to war, you know. I think that that's way over the top. I think that's fear-mongering." (NPR's "All Things Considered," 11/27/13)

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY): "I Am Disappointed By The Terms Of The Agreement Between Iran And The P5+1 Nation Because It Does Not Seem Proportional." "I am disappointed by the terms of the agreement between Iran and the P5+1 nation because it does not seem proportional," Schumer said. 'Iran simply freezes its nuclear capabilities while we reduce the sanctions. It was strong sanctions, not the goodness of the hearts of the Iranian leaders, that brought Iran to the table, and any reduction relieves the psychological pressure of future sanctions and gives them hope that they will be able to gain nuclear weapon capability while further sanctions are reduced.'" (Evan Puschak, "Critics Blast Iran Deal As US 'Defeat,'" [MSNBC](#), 11/24/13)

- **Schumer: "This Disproportionality Of This Agreement Makes It More Likely That Democrats And Republicans Will Join Together And Pass Additional Sanctions When We Return In December."** "This disproportionality of this agreement makes it more likely that Democrats and Republicans will join together and pass additional sanctions when we return in December," Schumer said in a statement. 'I intend to discuss that possibility with my colleagues.'" (Bernie Becker, "Schumer: Iran Wins In Nuclear Agreement," [The Hill](#), 11/24/13)

"Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) Said Monday The Senate Might Pursue Stronger Sanctions Against Iran, After Lawmakers Criticized A Nuclear Accord That Would Ease Sanctions." (Alexander Bolton, "Reid: Senate Will Consider Stronger Sanctions Against Iran," [The Hill](#), 11/25/13)

- **Reid: Senate Will Examine The Deal And "If We Need To Do Stronger Sanctions, I'm Sure We Will Do That."** "When we come back, we'll take a look at this to see if we need stronger sanctions,"

he said in an interview on 'The Diane Rehm Show.' Reid said Senate Banking Committee Chairman Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) would study, and could hold hearings on, the pact. 'If we need to do stronger sanctions, I'm sure we will do that,' he said. 'We'll move forward appropriately.'" (Alexander Bolton, "Reid: Senate Will Consider Stronger Sanctions Against Iran," [The Hill](#), 11/25/13)

Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY): Parts Of The Obama Administration's Iran Nuclear Deal Are

"Disappointing" To Me. CROWLEY: "Congressman Engle, it's there. Despite the objections of a lot of people, there is this agreement now. And the President has said quite clearly, now is not the time for more sanctions here during this six month period. Do you agree with that?" REP. ELIOT ENGEL: "Well, let me first say that it's disappointing to me that Iran is still going to be allowed to enrich while they're talking. I wouldn't have thought that that should be a prerequisite to any kind of talks. We're not asking them to dismantle any of their centrifuges, so that's disappointing. But the agreement is here and we have to make it work. And I think we need to be very, very careful with the Iranians. I don't trust them. I don't think we should trust them. But I think that we have to make it work. Now I'm in favor of sanctions, I agree with Chairman Royce, it's important to ratchet up the problems with the Iranians so that they—" (CNN's "State Of The Union," 11/24/13)

AS DEMOCRATS ARE CLASHING WITH OBAMA, DIFFERENT FACTIONS OF THE DEMOCRATIC BASE ARE STARTING TO REEMERGE

"As Obama Struggles To Achieve His Second-Term Domestic Agenda, A More Liberal And Populist Voice Is Emerging Within A Democratic Party Already Looking Ahead To The Next Presidential Election." (Zachary Goldfarb, "More Liberal, Populist Movement Emerging In Democratic Party Ahead Of 2016 Elections," [The Washington Post](#), 11/30/13)

- **Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA): "There's Going To Be A Big Populist Push On Whoever's Running For Office To Espouse These Kinds Of Progressive Policies."** "'The first Obama administration was focused too much on saving the banks and Wall Street,' said Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), a liberal who is retiring after four decades in Congress. 'There's going to be a big populist push on whoever's running for office to espouse these kinds of progressive policies.'" (Zachary Goldfarb, "More Liberal, Populist Movement Emerging In Democratic Party Ahead Of 2016 Elections," [The Washington Post](#), 11/30/13)
- **Liberals Are "Assembling An Agenda Now, To Press Their Case" Ahead Of The Democratic Presidential Primary.** "As heartfelt as their hard-nosed beliefs are, these liberal operatives can also read the polls. They understand the potency and historic nature of a potential Clinton candidacy. That's why they're assembling an agenda now, to press their case. Being neither fully on board nor wholly against Hillary 2.0, they realize a primary campaign without a real conversation would only hasten a runaway coronation—and perhaps obscure their cause." (David Catanese, "The Next Big Fight Between Hillary Clinton And Liberals," [The New Republic](#), 11/7/13)
- **Liberals Are "Diligently Compiling Reams of Data, Organizing Events And Corraling Like-Minded Pols To Bolster Their Case" Ahead Of 2016.** "Liberals know they face demonstrable hurdles and risks in pressuring the ever-cautious Clinton. Asserting too hostile a position against the possible first woman president could seem premature and even turn off some of their own foot soldiers. So they're diligently compiling reams of data, organizing events, and corraling like-minded pols to bolster their case." (David Catanese, "The Next Big Fight Between Hillary Clinton And Liberals," [The New Republic](#), 11/7/13)

"The Progressive Wing Of The Party Has Picked Up Considerable Strength In The Past Decade On Issues Such As Income Inequality, The Environment And Social Welfare Issues." "The progressive

wing of the party has picked up considerable strength in the past decade on issues such as income inequality, the environment and social welfare issues. Progressives have also been very adept at harnessing new technology platforms to effectively advocate their positions on these issues. While the president has been generally supportive, he hasn't given them everything that they have asked for during the last five years." (Doug Sosnik, "Which Side Of The Barricade Are You On?" [Politico Magazine](#), 11/25/13)

- **Liberals Will Put "More Pressure On Candidates Who Seek The Party's Nomination For Elected Office To Support Their Issues In Order To Get Their Support."** "For the most part, Obama has been given a pass when he hasn't committed his support or delivered on his campaign promises. In the future, we can expect the left to place much more pressure on candidates who seek the party's nomination for elected office to support their issues in order to get their support."

(Doug Sosnik, "Which Side Of The Barricade Are You On?" [Politico Magazine](#), 11/25/13)

This Year, Democrats Are Already Having Intraparty Feuds

Last Week, Leaders Of The Third Way, A Centrist Democratic Think Tank, Penned An Op-Ed Criticizing The Far Left. "This week saw similar tensions arise among Democrats, starting with an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal by the leaders of the centrist Democratic think tank Third Way. Jim Kessler, one of the co-authors, called economic populism a dead end for Democrats." (Mara Liasson, "Social Security Fight Exposes Democratic Divide On Economic Policy," [NPR](#), 12/7/13)

- **The Third Way's Jim Kessler: "There's A Belief, I Think, On One End Of The Party, Not With Everybody But With Some, That We Can Have It All, We Can Expand Entitlements And We Can Have Investments, And Our View Is That's Just Not Realistic."** "We wrote this because there needs to be a serious discussion — and this seems to be the right time to have it — about what we're going to be doing with entitlements and investments in this country,' Kessler says. 'There's a belief, I think, on one end of the party, not with everybody but with some, that we can have it all, we can expand entitlements and we can have investments, and our view is that's just not realistic.'" (Mara Liasson, "Social Security Fight Exposes Democratic Divide On Economic Policy," [NPR](#), 12/7/13)

Kessler Urged Democrats Not To Follow Liberal Favorite Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) "Over The Populist Cliff." "Kessler's op-ed also took aim at populism as a political strategy, warning Democrats not to follow Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., over the populist cliff. Warren is a hero to those in the liberal wing of the party, who sees her as the scourge of Wall Street." (Mara Liasson, "Social Security Fight Exposes Democratic Divide On Economic Policy," [NPR](#), 12/7/13)

- **"The Op-Ed Got A Furious Response From Warren And Her Supporters, Including Adam Green Of The Progressive Change Campaign Committee."** (Mara Liasson, "Social Security Fight Exposes Democratic Divide On Economic Policy," [NPR](#), 12/7/13)

Democrat Strategist Joe Trippi Expects The Democrat Skirmishes Will Mark "The Beginning Of An Intraparty Battle That Will Go On For The Next Three Years." "This new populist energy in the Democratic Party is fueled by growing frustration over income inequality, a shrinking middle class and the sense that Wall Street escaped responsibility for the financial crisis. Democratic strategist and Fox News contributor Joe Trippi says what's happening now is the beginning of an intraparty battle that will go on for the next three years, as Democrats prepare for the 2016 election." (Mara Liasson, "Social Security Fight Exposes Democratic Divide On Economic Policy," [NPR](#), 12/7/13)

- **"Trippi, Who Ran The 2004 Populist Campaign Of Howard Dean For President, Says The Battle Will Be Fought Along The Ideological Fault Line That Divides Centrist Democrats From Progressives."** (Mara Liasson, "Social Security Fight Exposes Democratic Divide On Economic Policy," [NPR](#), 12/7/13)

