

Media Log

University of Houston-downtown

Liptak, A., Santos, F., and Eckholm, E. (2014, January 13). Supreme Court Won't Hear Arizona Appeal on Abortion Ban. Retrieved from subscription email. *The New York Times.com*.

WASHINGTON - *Supreme Court Won't Hear Arizona Appeal on Abortion Ban*. "The Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal from Arizona officials seeking to revive a state law that barred most abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. The justices offered no reasons for turning down the appeal, as is their custom."

"The case concerned an Arizona law, enacted in 2012, that prohibits abortions, except in certain medical emergencies, when the fetus reaches 20 weeks gestation, dated from the woman's last menstrual period. The law's definition of medical emergency is narrow, encompassing conditions requiring an immediate abortion to avert a pregnant woman's death or a "serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function."

I do not believe men should have the right to vote on issues concerning the human female reproduction system, therefore any form of mass media that includes a man's intrusion or opinion is wrong. It is purely about control and dominating women. As a country we have been fighting about this for a long time, and will continue to do so until intelligent men understand the importance of bowing out of this subject. Battles are being fought in many states, and the so-called pro-lifers claim they are concerned about fetuses can feel pain at 20 weeks. They do not have a solution about how to take care of that child's pain after birth. They contain to find loop holes to maintain control of women, and one of the latest "schemes (litigation) is requiring doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at hospitals and limiting coverage to abortion procedures in health plans or the use of medications to end pregnancies." I am angered

by the fact that individuals attempt to use religion as their excuse. Illegalization of abortion will cause more harm to human life for the woman, an unborn fetus an unwanted infant. Raising two children of my own I understand that being a parent is a lifetime commitment, not a commit that ends when the child turns eighteen years old. Often, the toughest time is from the point of their teenage years and older.

Gov. Jan Brewer of Arizona is a major pro-life supporter, but I believe Brewer's time is running out. Arizona officials conceded that the law covered abortions before fetal viability, currently about 24 weeks as measured from a woman's last menstrual period. But they argued that the law did not amount to an outright ban, only to a permissible regulation, one they said was justified by the state's interest in preventing fetal pain and the increased risk to women as their pregnancies progress. The appeals court rejected both arguments.

"Judge Kleinfel said "Were the statute limited to protecting fetuses from unnecessary infliction of excruciating pain before their death, Arizona might regulate abortions at or after 20 weeks by requiring anesthetization of the fetuses about to be killed, much as it requires anesthetization of prisoners prior to killing them when the death penalty is carried out."

Arizona is one of 12 states that have tried to ban most abortions at 20 weeks based on the theory of fetal pain, according to the Guttmacher Institute. But the other states have set the threshold at 20 weeks after fertilization, about two weeks later in a pregnancy than Arizona's cutoff, but still earlier than fetal viability. Such laws have been struck down in Georgia and Idaho but remain in effect in nine states where they have not been challenged in court.

"In urging the court to hear the Arizona case, *Horne v. Isaacson*, No. 13-402, officials there told the justices that the small number of challenges was an effort by abortion rights

advocates to make sure there was no split among the lower courts, a factor that often figures in the Supreme Court's decision to hear a case.”

(2014, January 17). The Rachel Maddow Show. *MSNBC*.

More information is coming out about Governor Chris Christie and his involvement in the bridge scandal. I'm not surprised that the governor could be involved because on a number of occasions I found him to be unbelievable. I'm waiting to hear more facts but it seems as if his strong-arm attacks on others have been unusually harsh towards the media and public. The stacks for him are high and the fact that one of his friends was given a job that he wasn't qualified for makes me suspicious to learn more. We still don't know what he knows and when he knew it because he won't answer that question. I happen to believe that Chris Christie has bullied so many people for such a long time that he has gotten careless. The people affected by his revenge are still unknown, but as time passes the facts will be revealed. Politics are almost always nasty, but Christie seems to be more mob like than political savvy. Personally, I believe he has gotten himself into a scandal his supporters will leave his side. If it was not such a serious violation of corruption it would be humorous to see him and his hateful co-workers loss their jobs and be fined, and/or do jail time. None of them showed compassion for the citizens and were concerned only with revenge.

(2014, January 20). *CNN Politics (politicalticker...online)*.

Wendy Davis' life story more complicated than compelling narrative. Wendy Davis is learning how to better navigate with the media when it comes to her narrative and personal life. She expresses this in her interview with the Dallas Morning News. I believe that the national spot light is on her as she begins her run for Texas Governor this is only the beginning of many attacks. She likely gave certain personal information about her past and then was forced to

clarify details the media perceived to be dishonest. If I was asked to recall my exact timeline when I married for the first time, got pregnant, divorced and provide other details it's likely I would not provide accurate details without taking a little time to go over my timeline. I am a supporter of Wendy Davis, and look forward to Rick Perry's tenure as Governor ending. The typical, Texan, cowboy image will eventually disappear with all the beautiful individuals moving to Texas. I do have concerns about Wendy Davis because she will be attacked relentlessly, but since her and I are similar in age my guess is she's in it for the long, hard run.

(2014, January 20). Interview segment with Rand Paul review. *CNN*.

Rand Paul is one of the scariest politicians I have listened to, but the bar is set so low nothing they say surprises me anymore. Rand Paul believes that the women in his family represent the average woman in American according to his interview. Not only is he out of touch with women in general he is out of touch with the women in his family. It's apparent he believes that he can use the women in his family to represent all women, but that is his biggest mistaken. Women are different and have different experiences based on their cultural, religious beliefs, economic status, sexual preference, etc. He makes too many assumptions about women, but I like it when he talks crazy because it makes people more aware of the fast talking, empty souled politicians. Women are becoming more aware of oppression and men like Rand Paul help us in our fight to overcome obstacles if women are listening closely. However, that it where our biggest obstacle is...women are busy and too often do not have the time to read, watch or listen to news but the one's that do are the women that will lead our way out of oppression and inequality.

(2014, January 27). New York. *MSNBC*.

Rep. Michael Grimm attacked and threatened to kill the journalist that attempted to interview him about Rep. Grimm's alleged misuse of campaign funds. So far, the consequences of Rep. Grimm's threats and actions have not been seen. Media coverage is not consequences enough. Rep. Grimm is an example of exactly what's wrong with politics and more specifically the face of the Republican Party. He is a self-righteous, bully who got caught on television. Hopefully, we will see him disappear from the political area completely. So far, I have not read anything of substance that would serve as proof that Rep. Grimm has much more to offer than future temper tantrums. Fortunately, the journalist that was attacked was not hurt and he seemed to take the temper tantrum directed at him in stride. This says a lot of the journalist, but even more about Rep. Grimm. If the journalist had made a big deal out of the attack he would have drawn attention to himself, but instead he wisely allowed all the attention to be focused on Rep. Grimm.

Rep. Grimm continues to demonstrate his temperament and thin skin which is not strong characteristics for today's politician. It is refreshing to hear journalists bring light to the unprofessional politicians, but personally I do not like a lot of negative news but always appreciate when journalists turn the spotlight on dishonest politicians. The public must be made aware of the people we are paying to represent our interests.

(2014, January 26). Melissa Harris-Perry Show, Run for Governor. *MSNBC*.

The segment discussed whether or not the attacks against Wendy Davis' narrative are sexist or gender discrimination. The discussion was about her narrative and some of the facts being inaccurate, such as her age, how long she lived in a trailer and how her college loans were paid. Some of the questions that were discussed began with, is she a bad mom because her ex-husband had custody of their daughter while she went to college? Is she being attacked because

her current husband paid for part of her education? They discussed was she not single-mom enough? Is she not feminist enough? Was she married & divorced at 19 or 21? One of the guests stated gender discrimination is a cognitive hook. Guest Kelly Dittman, said “is she a bad mom or single mom enough? Is she feminist enough?” Contrasted with Kerry & Mark Orubio story – not man enough, not soldier enough? To compare and contrast, the host used John Kerry and Mark Rubio and their narratives being attacked. The panel demonstrated that when you’re running for a high-level government position you are prone to be attacked. One of the guests, Jonathan Capehart stated “they like to take your strengths and knee cap with it.” He also used Gewt Gingrich as an example of a man who allowed his wife to pay for this education and then later left her for another woman but he’s a man and that is okay. Another guest, Laura Flanders pointed out that when you “put the weight on a narrative they have an appetite for it.” “Appetite. Attitudes expressed in our policy with women running for office.” Guest Beth Fohouy. The host and panel discussed whether or not Wendy Davis is being portrayed as a bad mom because her ex-husband had custody of their children while she attended college. Wendy Davis is being attacked with sexist undertones, but I agree with the shows panel that she can handle herself. When running for public office it’s typical to hear attacks come from the opposition. We have more important battles to fight.

(2014, January 27). Montagne, R. and Flintoff, C. *NPR News Radio*.

Political Turmoil In Ukraine Spreads Outside Capital Kiev. Turmoil began to spread when the country’s president refused to sign a trade deal with the European Union under pressure from neighbor Russia. Protests are spreading and calling for the president to step down. Protestors claim that there are more people who are against the president that have been afraid to step forward. The people are demanding an end to government corruption, to free political

prisoners, and to be aligned with the European Union and not Russia. Protestors have taken over government buildings such as the Justice Ministry building. If the protestors don't leave they will attempt to enact a state of emergency to force them out. Some protestors have already been killed. President ran a new law through parliament banning civic type of protests. The opposition wants the law repealed not changed. Most of the protesters are middle class people made up largely of women and younger people. The day of the funeral of one of their 25 year old leaders they cancelled the protests and stood in silence. The President is considering changing the law and granting amnesty for the protestors. Apparently, parliament will not be able to resolve issues peacefully, so the best chance will be between the President and the protestors. It's difficult to figure out the details in another country when we have a difficult time determining who the good and bad politicians are in the U.S. However, with women and young protestors my guess is the opposition is fighting for the middle class, such as we are here. (2014, (2014, January 27). New York. *MSNBC*.

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Morley, Safer, contributor. (2014, January 26). "Yearup," *CBS 60 Minutes*.

Gerald Chertavian created year-long jobs creating bootcamp for some of the country's most disadvantage young people. So far thousands of young people are working at jobs with good solid companies like JPMorgan and Facebook, and CEO's are finding out that they can do well by also doing well. Crash courses at corporate boot camp are offered and they will learn together, and overcome generations of poverty. This is an excellent program and something we should promote and support as part of our future. They learn business and technical skills and also important social skills. They are also taught how to write resumes and interview. They learn to work to build a career. These young people have worked hard to overcome poverty, drugs, foster care, women's shelters, and other obstacles. They have found that there is untapped resources in communities where young people haven't been given the opportunity or exposure to get a good job, but they are motivated, willing and capable. Perception changes need to be able so that these people are no longer invisible. Chertavian began "Yearup" with his own money. He saw firsthand the unfairness of young people who had not been given opportunities, and he helped a young man through college prior to starting "Yearup." He began with just twenty-two students where he created a year-long job bootcamp that provides a pathway to good careers for

young people who would otherwise never get the chance. The formula is simple, for six months students choose to concentrate on trading financial operations or more often computer technology. These two areas of concentrations can provide livable wages, and earn a career. President Obama visited the Washington site and the White House is looking for ways to duplicate the formula of “Yearup.” At first Chertavian had to beg companies to offer internships. Now, companies like JPMorgan are paying “Yearup” \$23,000 a year per intern. JPMorgan has taken on 300 interns so far and it’s been a success. “Yearup” gives students six months of intensive training so when they start a job they are well prepared. The investment has paid off for JPMorgan because the program and students are enlightened and become good permanent full-time employees.

Another aspect students learn is networking and social skills. Chertavian said, “You hire for skills and fire for behavior, so that’s one of the most important parts of the program.” There are social codes and social norms they must learn to survive in a career at a good company. Each candidate’s application is reviewed thoroughly and their determination is important. The only requirement is a high school diploma or GED. “Yearup” has twelve sites across the country and teaching two-thousand students in financial operations and computer technology. After graduation twenty-five percent go to college or are hired full-time. Average starting salaries are \$30,000 but with computer technology expertise salaries can increase up to \$50,000 or more. They earn money, and get college credits. Chertavian is filling a gap in the economy and hopefully these programs will be available in every community. Everyone does not want to work on Wall Street or in the city, but there are lots of good paying jobs available if we make the effort to help give people an opportunity. We need programs for all ages and not just young people. As people get older many can no longer perform physical jobs like they did when they were younger, but they still need to support themselves. The program has demonstrated

measurable success, and the business community can help organize this same program.

“Yearup” is offering is program to community colleges.

Todd, C. (2014, February 3). The Daily Rundown with Chuck Todd. *MSNBC-DC*.

Guest, Celicia Munoz, Director W.H. Domestic Policy Council. E-rate comment 20MM Students to Internet. Digital Divide and AT&T and MicroSoft helping. The President and the Secretary of the Department of Education are trying to work with Congress for reauthorization. I was excited to hear about these efforts because so many children in school do not have access to computers, therefore they will lack the skills to continue their education. However, with our congress it is unlikely that they be willing to cooperate, but I do hope our Department of Education will continue to work on this important program. I have three granddaughters and they have access to the internet which is critical because some schools require first grade students to complete their homework online. For example, my six year old niece has twenty minutes of online homework each night. Access for all the children in our family is critical, but what about the parents who cannot afford internet expenses. Children should not have to miss educational opportunities for any reason, and it is the best way to change poverty for every generation.

Titunik, V., Editor (2014, February 6). Why Can Some Kids Handle Pressure While Others Fall Apart? *The New York Times.com*. Retrieved from subscription email. Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman are the authors of “Top Dog: The Science of Winning and Losing.”

The article, “Why Can Some Kids Handle Pressure While Others Fall Apart?” is one of the most interesting articles I’ve read about stress. The researchers and studies referenced in the article use four individuals as examples, two children and two teenagers. In addition to the nature versus nurture argument, a genetic component called the COMT gene is gaining new

interest. Depending on whether a student has the so-called “warrior” or “worrier” gene can affect how they perform on tests. A person can also have a combination of both types of COMT genes. “Unlike long-term stress, short-term stress can actually help people perform, and viewing it that way changes its effect. Even for those genetically predisposed to anxiety, the antidote isn’t necessarily less competition – it’s more competition. It just needs to be the right kind of stress.” The article focuses on the four different individuals and how they handle stress on state standardized tests, school exams, and SAT’s. The COMT gene could help us understand why some people are more prone to stress than others. “There are two variants of the gene, One variant builds enzymes that *slowly* remove dopamine. The other variant builds enzymes that *rapidly* clear dopamine. We all carry the genes for one or the other, or a combination of the two.” I will continue to follow upcoming research and studies about the COMT gene since I have experienced significant work stress the past sixteen months. I tried to determine which COMT gene, or both I might have but I couldn’t. The article is worth reading, and references the studies that have been done and are being done, such as by researchers at Brown University. They have been studying COMT’s connection to post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Quinn Kennedy, a research psychologist at the Naval Postgraduate School, is studying how the gene correlates with pilot performance. Douglas C. Johnson, a professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego, is part of a consortium of researchers called the OptiBrain Center, where he is interested in COMT’s role in combat performance and well-being. Long-term stress is harmful, but short-term stress can be beneficial. The student experiences and research results used in the article tends to support a “difference between competition that challenges and competition that threatens.”

By Marsha Mercer. JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2014. Vol. 55 No. 1, Aarp.org/bulletin.

Is Your Medicare Safe? Approximately 50 million Americans have Medicare and many are worried about changes under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). AARP received communications from many older people with questions about the health care law and the troubles they've had getting started (AARP). The AARP stated that the first thing to know is that the law has language protecting guaranteed benefits: "Nothing in this act shall result in a reduction of guaranteed benefits" under Medicare. Even the well-publicized problems with the Obamacare website won't affect Medicare users, who will continue to use medicare.gov as their online portal. And the ACA adds new Medicare benefits at no additional costs to the beneficiaries.

"The good news for Medicare recipients is new protections and benefits in the health law that strengthen Medicare and give more coverage," says Nancy LeaMond, executive vice president of AARP's state and national group.

The law shifts Medicare's focus to keeping older people healthy. Thus, it provides an annual wellness visit as well as preventive screenings – such as for diabetes and certain cancers – without charge. And it gradually closes the "doughnut hole" – the gap in Part D prescription drug coverage.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that Medicare spending would be reduced by \$716 billion over 10 years, mainly because the law puts the brakes on annual increase in Medicare reimbursement for Medicare Advantage, hospital costs, home health services, hospices and skilled nursing services. Hospitals have to absorb most of the reductions, about \$260 billion over 10 years. Medicare Advantage will receive about \$156 billion less.

Other cuts include \$66 billion less for home health, \$39 billion less for skilled nursing services and \$17 billion less for hospice care – all by 2022.

Medicare costs will still grow, just more slowly than they would without the ACA. There are critics and supporters. Some of the questions from Medicare members are what we hear in the news almost daily, which include “My out-of-pocket costs on my Medicare Advantage plan are going up, and a lot of my copays are increasing. What’s going on? AARP responded, “Everybody is associating every change in the world with Obamacare,” says Jonathan Gruber, a health economist at MIT. Insurers changed Medicare Advantage plans before the law, and they’re still changing them, he says. “Overall, seniors are not paying that much more, and more people are still enrolling in Medicare Advantage plans,” says Gruber, who advised the Obama administration on the ACA.

About 3 in 10 Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in Medicare Advantage options, which are premium insurance plans that often include dental, vision and drug insurance. These plans have been subsidized by the federal government for years. The ACA is simply aiming to equalize costs, according to its proponents.

An analysis by an industry trade group found that most people in Medicare Advantage plans will see a 5 percent increase in premiums in 2014. Beneficiaries may have fewer options and higher out-of-pocket costs. Stephen Hemsley, CEO of UnitedHealth Group, the nation’s largest provider of Medicare Advantage plans, says that the company will have to trim benefits. “Medicare Advantage has a couple of difficult years ahead,” he says.

“This is no free lunch,” Gruber says. But he and other supporters of the ACA say the changes are essential to help ensure that the program is around for future generations.”

I agree with Gruber and the other supporters of ACA. There were problems when Medicare first began and many critics, but it is critical we find the best ways to take care of each other. I have worked since I was 15 years old and currently 51 yrs old. Although this will cost me and my husband more since we fall in a high tax bracket we are okay with that, and think about our children and grandchildren. Sometimes you have to step back and pay additional expenses to move forward to a better future. There is no guarantee that a college degree will benefit all graduates or society as a whole, but we do know it does significantly improves the lives of more people than the alternative. I have heard criticism from co-workers that they do not want to pay for foreigners, and my question to them is...So, you do not want to create a better world where we as human beings take care of either other?" Most responses are not logical or comprehensive. My husband and I are grateful that we make good incomes, but we are not afraid to live on less because we know that we can, especially if our contributions to society are for good.

By Peter Jaret and Bill Hogan. JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2014. Vol. 55 No. 1,
Aarp.org/bulletin.

A Desperate Gamble. "It was like electronic heroin," Maureen O'Connor said of the machine she thought she could best. "You know, the more you did, the more you needed – and the more it wasn't satisfied." But in the end it was the machine that beat O'Connor, leaving the former San Diego mayor and heiress to a \$50 million fortune all but destitute. At 67, she now lives with her twin sister instead of in the beachfront estate in La Jolla that she and her late husband, the founder of the Jack in the Bo fast-food chain, once called home. O'Connor's addiction to video poker ("that machine," she called it) was all-consuming. In nine years she placed more than \$1 billion in bets at casinos in San Diego, Las Vegas and Atlantic City.

O'Connor, in fact, was such a high roller – a “whale,” to use the industry’s not-so-flattering term – that Vegas casinos would send a private jet to pick her up in San Diego. She didn’t disappoint. “I could lose more than a hundred thousand in a day,” she told an interviewer last February. (O'Connor, through her attorney, declined to be interviewed for this story.)

As her losses mounted – eventually reaching something like \$13 million, according to her lawyers – O'Connor did what eventually landed her in a federal courtroom, charged with the felony crime of money laundering: She took \$2,088,000 from a charitable foundation set up by her husband in 1966, depleting its assets and leaving it insolvent.

What caused O'Connor – a one-time champion swimmer, San Diego’s hard-changing “Mayor Mo” from 1986 to 1992 – to fall into such an abyss? She herself blamed an addiction to gambling made worse by a brain tumor, diagnosed in 2011. Her lawyers noted in court filings that she turned to gambling in a big way sometime around 2001, as she continued to struggle with pain and loneliness following the death of her husband. “The pattern,” her lawyers wrote, “fits the syndrome known as grief gambling.”

Under a deferred-prosecution agreement, O'Connor promised to undergo treatment for gambling addiction, repay the money she took from the foundation and cover the tax liability associated with her misappropriation of funds.

O'Connor will never do any prison time while most people would get that type of luxury sentence. Other people that have had similar experiences in up in prison.

The number of casinos has exploded over the past few decades. Today, casinos operate in more than 30 states. Add state lotteries, Powerball and now Internet gambling sites, and there are plenty of ways to try your luck and lose a little cash. Many adult communities, adult communities, assisted living centers and even churches organize outings to nearby casinos.

Experts say, only Americans are the fastest-growing segment of gambling addicts. For about 8 percent, it's an addiction that has cost them their retirement nest egg.

The nation's \$40 billion a year gambling industry aggressively targets older customers, as they have accumulated wealth and are especially vulnerable, experts say, to wagering more than they can afford. The enticements range from free bus trips to private jets dispatched to pick up high-rollers like O'Connor.

Gambling-industry marketers also know that advancing age, and the declining cognition that sometimes goes with it, can reduce a person's aversion to risk. "With age, there can be a decrease in the activity of decision-making parts of the brain related to executive functioning."

Older people with dementia are at especially high risk because they are unable to recognize limitations or use appropriate judgments. And dopamine agonists, a class of prescription drugs used to treat the symptoms of Parkinson's disease and restless legs syndrome, seem to be associated with compulsive gambling as a side effect, according to Marc Potenza, M.D., a professor of psychiatry at Yale University who studies problem gambling.

Psychologists also suspect that people are more likely to run into problems if they turn to gambling for the wrong reasons – to escape loneliness, depression or even chronic pain.

Video gambling machines, now permitted in more than 40 states, are the overwhelming favorite among older casino-goers, Hunter says. And that puts them at even greater risk. Although any kind of gambling can become addictive, video slot and poker machines are the most seductive because they offer the greatest escape, experts say. "Machine gambling is really the crack cocaine of compulsive gambling," say Lia Nower, the director of the Center for Gambling Studies at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Some psychologists and psychiatrists specialize in treating gambling addiction. Compulsive gamblers, these experts say, suffer from low self-esteem and fall into two broad categories: action gamblers, who relish excitement and believe they can beat the house, and escape gamblers, who seek to forget about pain or trauma in their lives.

Gamblers Anonymous programs are available in most part of the country. Breaking a gambling addiction isn't easy, but GA programs do help some people. Casino's should be regulated to protect people with disabilities and individuals over 50 years old who are not financially stable by putting the legal burden on the Casino's. Unfortunately, the casino owners make significant contributions to politicians who are more than willing accept their contributions and in return vote against regulating casinos to protect the people who elected them into office.

This article made me realize that I did not understand how serious gambling addictions can be. About ten years ago when I still lived in Oklahoma my co-workers and I were discussing the lottery that was being voted on in Oklahoma. One male co-work in his mid-thirties was passionately against it. He was from Texas, so I was confused why he seemed to have serious issues with it, but after talking with him I learned that his father nearly lost their farm and everything else his parents owned because of his lottery and gambling addiction. As shocking as this article was to me it made me think about my co-workers dad. In addition, one of my best friend's began to have issues with one of the casinos in Oklahoma after having a year's worth of winnings. Finally, her luck ran out and when it did she was determined to play every single day until she won all the money back that she had lost. Fortunately, my friend and her husband were able to recover financially and she no longer steps foot in a casino or participates in gambling. As for the individuals in retirement homes and the fact that casinos are taking advantage of them that seems more like a family matter. While they should be allowed to

spend their own money as they see fit, especially late in life...there is a majority of these individuals who run out of money and/or are being supported by family or friends. Since I don't gamble I do not have a strong opinion about gambling. However, I do not believe it okay that sometimes money and/or fame can buy you a ticket out of jail time when you hurt people.

(2014, February 10). Grynbaum, M. and Semple, K. Retrieved from email subscription. *New York Times.com*.

De Blasio Plans a Minimum Wage and City ID Cards. Mayor Bill de Blasio is ready to address economic and social disparities by expanding benefits for illegal immigrants and pushing for a higher local minimum wage. In his first State of the City address, Mr. de Blasio said New York would become the largest municipality to offer identification cards to residents regardless of their legal status, making it easier for undocumented immigrants to open bank accounts, lease apartments or borrow library books. And he vowed to bring New York in line with other liberal strongholds, but will need approval from legislators in Albany to enact his version. He has lost patience with federal lawmakers. He and the City Council, whose new leaders are closely aligned with him, will work to expand New York's "living wage" law to cover tens of thousands of workers whose employers receive city subsidies. He is facing resistance to raise taxes on wealthy residents to pay for expanded prekindergarten and after-school programs. He praised the city's labor force, which will renegotiate all its contracts with the city in the coming months. The numbers in the budget represent real people who are just trying to live their lives. He does not want NY citizens to live in the shadows of society. The mayor has a good plan, but even with good intentions and solid plans he and his staff have a huge responsibility to make sure the

budget can support his plans. Looking for cuts in all areas will be critical, but all cities, and states should be making these same efforts.

Hayes, C. (2014, February 17). Subject is Governor Christie bridge scandal continues to get deeper. *MSNBC*.

ALL IN with Chris Hayes at 7:00 p.m. “House of Cards” is Chris Hayes format. Heather Haddon, reporter for the New York Times was a guest. She discussed her conversation with Governor Cuomo. Guest Steve Karnacki discussed more pieces to the puzzle. He reported the Chip and Chris Michaels and asked what they knew at the time. It’s a bizarre agency with the Port Authority and New Jersey. Steve stated that everyone that Wildstein was the point of contact. Was it David Wildstein understanding that he was speaking for the governor? Jersey operatives were outraged about the traffic study. She has evidence the governor talked. New Jersey lost Bill B. and David W. so they have lost power on their side.

I am not one of the people that is obsessed with the Chris Christie bridge scandal, but I am certainly interested in the outcome of the investigation. It’s important for the citizens that Gov Christie represents to learn all the facts about what happened. The outcome for some of the citizens stuck in the traffic could have been so much worse. Even if Gov. Christie and some of his staff are found innocent I will have a difficult time believing the results since it’s apparent that none of them had any respect for the people they represent and instead were more concerned with their petty games of retaliation against another public official that refused to be controlled by Gov. Christie.

(2014, February 20). mDavid Axelrod: ‘Angry’ ObamaCare opponents are ‘more mobilized’ for the 2014 elections. Retrieved from *Fox News. Washington Examiner*.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/04/20/david-axelrod-angry-obamacare-opponents-are-more-mobilized-for-2014-elections/>

Fox news reported a story from the *Washington's Examiner*, Justin Green that angry Obamacare opponents are “more mobilized” for the midterm elections than the health care law’s beneficiaries, according to longtime adviser to President Obama. I agree with the reports that our new health care plan suffers from a public perception problem, but give it several more years and no one will want to give it up. Fox News often reports that Obamacare is viewed by some as a social welfare program, more so than a social insurance program. I couldn’t disagree more and look forward to a day when no one in the U.S. is without health insurance coverage.

I have an extremely difficult time stating that Fox has a news segment because I do not watch Fox. I have tried to listen to Fox News in order to keep an open mind, but it’s always disappointing. Fox mentions in this article that core Obama supporters don’t normally vote in midterm elections, but I believe we’ll see more Democrat voters than expected.

Any news like this article always has a flare of the distaste Fox has for our President. There is likely no end to the money funneled to Fox from individuals like the Koch Brothers, and others until the laws are changed.

(2014, February 24). TEXAS TOUGH with Governor Perry. *MSNBC*. Morning Joe: Economic Star Power inside the Lone Star State.

Per Gov. Perry, Teamsters support him. Gov. Rick Perry said he has their support. Putting policies in place so small business man or woman can have a return on their investment. Fed Policy dealing with energy, says this administration seems to be anti-fuel. Policies fueling job growth. Discussed job creation...he says unions look to him to create jobs and economic growth and unions will be happier. If jobs don’t come nothing else really matters per Joe S.

Revolution through TX OK ND changing through everything. What will Texas Oil Boom mean? Mexico decided to liberalize their policies and be engaged in development. Immigration affected and debate will change and people will go back home for those good energy jobs. Will make by 2025 us energy efficient with XL Pipeline and other advances. When people respect the natural resources and an administration promotes natural resources in our country instead of dependent on outside the country. Gov. Perry going to IOWA and to help Terry Reinstead and his campaign efforts. Pitches businesses to move from Iowa to TX. Gov. Rick Perry said running for President again is an option for him. Free up people from taxation. This administration must decentralize. Formula One Race will be in Austin. Rick Perry had his moment in the spotlight when he attempted to run for President in the last election, or become a nominee but he failed. He embarrassed himself in the debate, but so have other political leaders. Gov. Perry continues to preach the same rhetoric, and he offered nothing new or of added value.

I look forward to the day when Wendy Davis replaces Rick Perry because it will be evidence that Texas is changing and moving in the right direction. I did not vote for Rick Perry in any elections and do not believe he represents Texas or women well. He did not receive enough criticism for his racist actions and comments. He is another politician that hides behind religion to oppress and dominate women. Most of the time I listen to Gov. Perry he fumbles through almost every sentence he speaks. I know other people see this but it amazes me how some individuals elect not to really listen to him.

(2014, February 25). Matthews, C. MSNBC, HARDBALL

Guest, Gov. Daniel Malloy (D) Connecticut said the CBO says the healthcare system will save \$1.25 trillion. You're either for lifting people out of poverty or you are not. Michael Steele disagreed and said it's mostly rhetoric with regards to the increase in the minimum wage. Said

we are raising the minimum wage in the wrong way, but he is for it. It was an excellent and exciting discussion about the different sides. Need more comments. I learned what CBO meant, Congressional Budget Office. I looked up CBO online <http://www.cbo.gov/> to learn more. According to CBO's website, increasing the minimum wage is positive overall. Although they site that some jobs for low-wage worker could be eliminated, I believe we are moving in the right direction. We need to solve the biggest problem first and then find a solution for the ripple effect of job loss if that becomes a realistic result. As usual, Michael Steele did not have any good ideas on an alternative to raising the minimum wage because there is not a better alternative. Gov. Malloy did a great job debating Michael Steele, and left Mr. Steele nearly speechless. When you are on the side that is doing the right thing for society it is easier to make logical, solid points. "Gov. Malloy made a compelling case for the fact that standing up for making a living wage is standing up for the working class, and you either care about lifting people out of poverty, or you don't. It's as simple as that."

(2014, March 3). Joe Scarborough Morning Joe. *MSNBC*.

Guest interviewed: Host James Lipton of *INSIDE THE ACTORS STUDIO* is the guest – *THE ACADEMY AWARDS CELEBRATING A YEAR IN FILM* – He spoke about Matthew McConaughey. *ITAS*. The book Matthew sent to Mr. Lipton and how the book changed his life. He discussed Matthew's weight loss. I decided I'm not going to do the wrong parts anymore. Mat turned down \$15MM dollars because he didn't want to be that kind of actor anymore no matter what it cost him. Matthew's career has now started to expand his career. The actor does not write the script" Mr. Lipton. The talent lies in the choice. Great actors never let you get ahead of them and everything they do is surprising." Matthew has arrived at that point in his career where he is performing like Brando." Lupita Nyong'o wins Oscar for Best actress in

support role for “12 Years A Slave” was Oscar for best film. Mr. Lipton says he’s a polit and didn’t think Gravity was the best movie, but Sandra Bullock did a great job. James Lipton throws an Oscar party every year. Matthew “Just keep living” wrote in the book he sent to James Lipton. McConaughey knows who he is and always has known.” Mr. Lipton said the Oscar’s got it right!

I can’t say I’m a fan of Matthew McConaughey, but have enjoyed most of his movies. I became more interested in him after I read his personal history and his close relationship with his father who has passed. I read the book “12 Years A Slave” for one of my history classes and thought the book was excellent, sad but a story that I was honored to read. Sometimes I watch award programs because I love movies and films, and I will cheer for the movie I like best. I’m not certain I agree with the awards process as a while in any environment, but as long as the film makers and actors want it to continue I suppose it is their business. I understand that winning awards can bring historical recognition and increase their income.

Moritz, S. (2014, January 3). AT&T Seeks to Poach T-Mobile Customers With \$450 in Credits. *Bloomberg Businessweek*. <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-01-03/at-and-t-seeks-to-poach-t-mobile-customers-with-450-in-credits>

AT&T Inc., is offering T-Mobile customers up to \$450 in credits for devices and services for each line they switch.

The amount offer begins today, March 3, 2014 and the timing has a purpose. However, there are stipulations with the make and model of devices. AT&T is poaching customers which seems wrong, but it’s a part of doing business and good for certain people. However, I see potential problems long-term with AT&T having the option to increase costs. I am a long-time

customer of AT&T, but I stopped signing their contracts last year. I purchase my own phone and opt to have my freedom to switch phones or providers anytime I want without penalties.

From the article it sounds like AT&T had good timing. Is there a storm brewing between the two rivals? According to Wells Fargo & Co., T-Mobile may announce \$350 in credit to customers that switch to T-Mobile. The article says, “AT&T uses a similar network technology that makes it easier for customers to switch between them while retaining their devices.”

While providing a credit can offset termination fees, I doubt customer’s switch because of the credit offering from either company. It’s more likely that customers will switch because they wanted to switch providers but couldn’t because of termination fees.

Buckley, C. and Bradsher, K. (2014, March 18). Timing of Report by Flight’s Pilot Focuses Inquiry. Retrieved from subscription email. *The New York Times.com*.

SEPANG, Malaysia – A signaling system was disabled on the missing Malaysia Airlines jet before a pilot spoke to air traffic control without mentioning any trouble, a senior Malaysian official said Sunday, reinforcing theories that one or both of the pilots may have been involved in diverting the plane and adding urgency to the investigation of their pasts and possible motivations.

I have followed this story from the beginning and did not believe either pilot was involved in the disappearance of the people and the plane, but as evidence continues to surface it makes me think one or both pilots may have been involved. What is difficult to understand is why there has been so much conflicting information, but that could be contributed to language barriers. Also, countries have different controls and processes, especially when an event is as serious as a missing plane with so many people. I wonder if we will ever learn the entire truth, but if an individual is determined to murder one or multiple individuals they can usually

accomplish their task if well planned. Since the senior pilot was a family man with children and a grandchild I simply cannot image how he could have been motivated to murder so many innocent people regardless of his reasons. If he is guilty, I hope his reasons do not turn out to be religious because I have become so sick of people using religion as an excuse to murder, hate, discriminate, etc. If there is a God I pray that a message is sent to people who kill in the name of God, any God. If this is an act of terrorism than we should be listening and learning that if the U.S. continues to kill people in other countries they will retaliate against the U.S. Men need to stop starting wars, especially in foreign territory because they hurt innocent people everywhere. There is a better way and by more women claiming positions in the political arena I pray they will change our course. At this point, I still believe there were multiple hijacker's on that flight, but that may be wishful thinking. I find it strange that we haven't heard anything from either of the pilot's families.

(2014, March 18). The Diane Rehm Show (on vacation), Frank Sesno filled in. *NPR News Radio*.

Battle For Control of...Frank Sesno the Director of the school of media and public affairs at the George Washington University. The Republican Party did some soul searching after their election failures after 2012. Now armed with a new battle plan to retake control of the Senate. Guests: Dave Winston, Republican strategist of the Winston Group, Stuart Rothenberg, Editor and publisher of the Rothenberg Political Report, Anna Greenberg, Democratic pollster and Sr. VP of the Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, and Chris Cillizza politics blogger at The Fix, The Washington Post, and managing editor, PostPolitics.com; author of "The Gospel According to The Fix."

Rothenberg said there are 21 Democratic Senate seats up, 15 Republican Senate seats up, and it's in the context of a midterm election where the president's popularity is somewhere probably in the low-40s. People continue to be angry, frustrated, disappointed with the direction of the country, depending on your partisanship and your ideological bent, general dissatisfaction. It creates a dynamic for a more traditional midterm environment where the voters are going to see the elections as somewhat of a referendum on the president. That's bad news from the Democrats, and it takes place in a particular context, which is lots of red states, Republican states that have Democratic incumbents who are either retiring or seeking re-election. When you add it all together, it's a difficult environment for the president's party.

Cillizza talked about polling results and that the people are sick of everything in politics and unfortunately for Democrats the most visible and known politician is Barack Obama.

Winston said in surveys he's done one-third of the electorate disapproves of both parties and half of independents who have an unfavorable view of both parties. I mean, so it's pretty deep. To a large degree the political discourse is off topic from what people want to hear about. They want to hear about jobs and the economy. They want to know how you're going to resolve the economic situation facing this country. And what they hear on a daily basis is the other. One side is saying to the other side how miserable they are and after a while they are believing both sides. The challenge to political parties is to change that discourse and create something more positive.

Greenberg said that both parties are held in low esteem. The Republican Party is at historic lows, the brand of the Republican Party particularly as defined by the Tea Party. Particularly the Tea Party in the House has not been helpful. The people feel sort of hopeless about the economy. They're not sure anybody has the answer and they think it's the new normal

to struggle. It's a challenge to get into the middle class or even a concern about falling out of the middle class.

When Sesno asked about the Tea Party's influence, Winston said it's a key part of the party. It's part of the challenge. Part of the challenge is you've seen Speaker Boehner deal with is how do you manage a majority coalition? Tea Party's part of that. You've got to figure it out and make it work. Republicans are going to have a relatively decent opportunity to hold the House for another term. We need to realize is the questioning of the president's ability to deal with the country's problems. I think what happened as a result of the healthcare rollout hasn't been so much the questioning of the healthcare plan as it's been suddenly maybe the president is not the answer to the right track, wrong track question in terms of the country heading the wrong direction. Maybe his policy's the reason for that.

Rothenberg said people think about who's running the country, they tend to think of the president. The default position historically has been when you have an unpopular president and desire for change, the president's party gets most of the blame.

Greenberg said the midterm election is dynamic, but if you ask people who controls Congress, the majority believe Republicans can control Congress. Some people believe Republicans control both the House and Senate.

Winston said it was the president decided he was going to focus on healthcare when it should be jobs and the economy. The Speaker John Boehner at that point was posing the question, where were the jobs. People said, John Boehner understands the problems facing the country. He's got the right one.

Greenberg said the argument has to be made about the Affordable Care Act is not so much around how effective it is in the short run, though obviously it's getting better and better.

It's what are you going to go back to? The hyper focus on Obamacare is potentially a problem for the Republicans. The negativity around Obamacare is a potential distraction for what it is Republicans are going to offer voters.

Rothenberg said it would be better if the Republicans had an agenda. People get impressions of Republicans, Democrats, the president and what the environment is like. There's been some decent economic numbers over the past few months on and off, housing starts, GDP that we've had up and down on new jobs. It doesn't seem to matter what. The public is in a funk. That's what the public believes. It is a problem once the narrative takes hold.

Well, after listening to the same old rhetoric I had to stop listening to the discussion after a certain point because when I hear any reference to the Speaker of the House doing a good job...I stop listening or turn the television channel. In my opinion he is a puppet and a typical politician. I have been on the fence when it comes to the Republican and Democratic Party's, but mostly I identify mostly with what I could call a conservative Democrat and sometimes agree with more liberal values thanks to the Tea Party. In my 30 plus years I have never seen a president that has been treated with such disrespect as President Obama, and regardless of what people say...it is a race issue. My take on this discussion and the outcome of the mid-term elections will be the result of how much money the Koch Brothers and other contributions are willing to spend vs. how much the public has been paying attention and working to understand. (2014, March 28). Rodner, J. *NPR News Radio*.

Obamacare's National Enrollment Looks Okay, but States Matter More. Six million was the number Washington expected to enroll by March 31, 2014. Forty-percent of those enrollees should be between 18 and 34 years old. Questions are being asked about what percentages of those people are younger and healthier. The theory is that the younger people will be healthier

and offset the cost of older and unhealthy people. Some experts don't think those number mean much. Looking at national numbers doesn't make much since because there is no national market for insurance. California has enrolled more than 850,000 people, and New York more than 350,000 people. The numbers are lagging in other states and some experts say because the insurance market is ran within each state. There may be an unbalance in healthy and sick people. There is an influx of sick people since insurance companies are barred from excluding people with pre-existing conditions. The last minute search to get more people enrolled may not contain enough of the right people, such as healthy people. Questions are being asked about whether or not pricing was set effectively, they could be too low or too high with too many unknown variables. It's possible we could see a change in insurance premiums in 2015 depending on enrollment numbers, the type of people who enroll, and other unknown variables.

O'Mahony, J. (2014, March-April). All Things to All Companies. *Bloomberg Business Week*. S1-S5. March 24 – April 6, 2014

Businesses are beginning to make use of the cloud, but have been renting capacity (storage space) from providers. However, the hybrid cloud is now being looked at by companies to see if it's a viable solution. Instead of renting capacity businesses can purchase capacity in the cloud for less money and maintain control in-house. Most businesses have various systems (applications) within their organization since different departments like Accounting, Treasury, and Marketing have different needs and therefore have different systems. Large corporations need a way to connect and manage the multiple systems. "The question for companies, then, is not whether their IT should be hybrid, but how they can get the best from a hybrid model – how to build effective bridges between their traditional IT and cloud infrastructures to improve IT efficiency, developer productivity and business agility," says Paul Cormier, President, Products

and Technologies, at Red Hat, the leading provider of open source solutions. “By itself, however, doesn’t guarantee maximum flexibility,” Cormier says. “That you get by adopting open technologies, and by considering openness in sourcing decisions.”

In my personal experience, what I like best about this option is that no one provider controls a company’s technology or product direction. For example, I have used ROME Credit software for the past ten years while I worked at The Williams Companies, Inc. and Dynegy Inc. (energy companies). ROME Credit was sold to a new owner a few years ago and support costs have increased. The owner has significantly increased the cost for upgrades and support because they are losing customers, so existing customers are sharing the burden of the costs. There are too few new customers because the competition and new technology is taking some of the market share. This forces me and my company to seriously consider changing credit systems which is a significant cost increase for IT support and staff training. However, I have never considered the cloud hybrid model option and will discuss with our VP of IT.

Miller, L. (2014, April). Discovering Heaven – How Our Ideas About The Afterlife Shape How We Live Today. *Time Magazine, TIME INC. SPECIALS*, 6-7.

Introduction, What Awaits Us. He was a newcomer to the clan, an orphan with the African name Lipopo and he died unexpectedly, of pneumonia. It was a shock to the whole extended family, and though none of those who were present at the time of his death knew Lipopo very well, they tenderly cared for him, keeping vigil over his corpse and grooming it carefully, as if he had somewhere important to go. And when the caretakers finally came to take the body away, the family matriarch, who was named Mimi, rebelled, protecting the body as if it were her own child. She placed herself between the people and Lipopo, screaming – howling – with rage and grief. At that point, a scientist who happened to be present crumpled with

sympathetic anguish. For Mimi was an ape, but her response to the death of a stranger was as human as anything he'd ever seen.

When I purchase this edition of TIME I didn't realize the entire magazine was about religion or I wouldn't have purchased it, but after reading this first story I was pleasantly surprised.

Miller, L. (2014, April). Discovering Heaven – The Science of the Afterlife. *Time Magazine, TIME INC. SPECIALS*, 91-97.

“Through our future beyond death remains one of humanity’s most fascinating mysteries, research sheds some light. If you’ve seen heaven, does that mean it exists? This question is more than a mind-bender. For thousands of years, certain people have claimed to have actually visited the place that, Saint Paul promised, “no eye has seen...and no human mind has conceived,” and their stories very often follow the same narrative arc.

According to a Gallup poll, about 8 million Americans claim to have had a near-death experience (NDE), and many of them regard this experience as proof of an afterlife.”

There have been articles and books written about NDE. Raymond Moody, who wrote *Life After Life* in 1975, one of the first popular books about NDE's, told CNN in 2013 that among people who have had such experiences, conviction about an afterlife transcends the particulars of religion. Moody was one of the founders of the International Association for Near-Death Studies, a group devoted to building global understanding of such experiences.

“As a field of scientific study, you can't have a control group. Most people on the brink of dying do die (and so cannot describe what the process is like), and those who survive approach the brink in such different ways – car accident, stroke, heart attack – that it's impossible to compare their experiences empirically. But over the years, science has posited a

number of theories about the connection between visions of heaven and the chemical and physical processes that occur at death.”

Since the 1980s, scientists have theorized that NDE's occur as a kind of physiological defense mechanism. In order to guard against damage during trauma, the brain releases protective chemicals that also happen to trigger intense hallucinations. This theory gained traction after scientists realized that virtually all of the features of an NDE – a sense of moving through a tunnel, an out-of-body feeling, spiritual awe, visual hallucinations, intense memories – can be reproduced with a stiff dose of ketamine, a horse tranquilizer frequently used as a party drug.

For some scientists, however, purely scientific explanations of heavenly visions do not suffice. Emily Williams Kelly is a psychologist who works at the University of Virginia's Division of Perceptual Studies, which treats the study of NDEs as legitimate science. Kelly has spent her career researching the interface between the brain and the mind. She interviews dying people and tries to find patterns among their similarities. Kelly believes the experiences of people who have had near-death visions demonstrate that consciousness exists even after normal brain function ceases. “If our conscious experience totally depends on the brain, then there can't be an afterlife – when the brain is gone, the mind is gone. But it's not that simple. Even when the brain seems to be virtually disabled, people are still having these experiences.”

Eben Alexander, a neurosurgeon who has operated on thousands of brains in his career, had an NDE while in a coma and believes science can establish the reality of heaven. He wrote, *Proof of Heaven*. Alexander had fallen into a coma after contracting bacterial meningitis. When Alexander published his book in 2012, he received criticism from author Sam Harris, who is also a neuroscientist. He said, “No one's cerebral cortex shuts down entirely

during coma. Let me suggest that, whether or not heaven exists, Alexander sounds precisely how a scientist should not sound when he doesn't know what he is talking about." He says that he believes Alexander (and all the others who testify to having visited heaven) saw what he says he saw, but one person's vision, seen during trauma, does not add up to proof.

I found this article to be thought provoking and do not have an opinion at this point, and haven't had an opinion for the past twenty years since I first heard of near death experiences. My instincts tell me that people are not seeing heaven, and instead our brain is protecting us and processing information. I choose to wait on scientists to continue to deliver their research results, however I do believe there are many mysteries like NDEs that scientists will not figure out in my lifetime.

(2014, March 31). Robin Young and Jeremy Hobson. Here and Now. *NPR News Radio*.

Why Is It So Hard To Say No? Studies show that the majority of people when asked to do something say yes – even when they are asked to tell white lies or do something they think is wrong. Vanessa Bohns, an Assistant Professor of Management Sciences said, "It comes down to the fundamental motivation we have to stay connected to other people. We don't want to reject people. We don't want people to think poorly of us, so we are managing the impressions other people have of us. The decision making process is an intense and emotional experience. People think they can say no, but when asked face to face it's awkward, embarrassing, a sort of guilt ridden experience. You don't realize how overpowering it can be and you're more likely to give in and say yes. The take away is realizing the power you have over people when you ask them to do something. We need to take a little more responsibility when we ask people to do things for us.

This was a good interview and topic because I have cringe when I hear people constantly ask people to do things for them without a thought of how it impacts that other person. I do not like asking others to do things for me and most of the time refrain from doing so. I have always preferred to do for myself, but also have found that many people can take you for granted and start believing that you actually like catering to them or working hard. I believe there is healthy balance that people should work on and take a look at their boundaries. For example, my sister doesn't mind asking our mother to do for her constantly and it's been an issue we've had for years. I have learned to remain silent, but one day when our mother is gone she will have to rely on herself, but unfortunately she will likely find someone else to do for her, such as her oldest daughter. Sometimes people are selfish, so I think it's up to the doer's learn to say "no." It took me until I was 50 years old to learn to say no and not feel like I had to give an explanation or feel anxiety or guilt. It feels great!

Carroll, J. (2014, April 3). Exxon Bows to Investor Demands Disclose Fracking Risks.

Bloomberg News. <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-04-03/exxon-bows-to-investor-demands-to-disclose-fracking-risks-1>

Exxon Mobil Corp. bowed to activist investors for the second time in two weeks by agreeing to disclose more information about risks associate with hydraulic fracturing used in natural gas drilling.

A shareholder group led by New York City pension funds and the non-profit As You Sow withdrew a resolution calling for more disclosure that would have been voted on at Exxon's annual meeting later this year. "Exxon Mobil is responding to share owners on issues that are critical to its long-term sustainability," New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer said in an e-mailed statement announcing the agreement today.

The agreement followed several meetings spread during a period of months, Alan Jeffers, a spokesman for Irving, Texas-based Exxon, said in a telephone interview today. The fracking report will be published in the autumn and much of it will be comprised of data and analyses Exxon has published in publicly available filings or the corporate website, he said.

We all must insist on full disclosure about fracking and chemicals used in our earth. The only reason people are willing to hide the truth are for huge profits which they value more than our earth and the lives of others. In order for the public to take more interest in fracking we must change our language and breakdown the entire process so everyone understands. It's important that organizations, companies, investors, the public, etc. educate themselves and speak up. We have earthquakes taking place that are believed to be directly related to fracking. The education systems must include these types of real life issues in classes beginning in elementary school. When we teach students about real life and real time issues they are more excited about engaging.

(2014, April 11). Staff. *NPR News Radio*.

Paying Off Student Loans. How Americans are paying for college. Paying off student loans puts a dent in wallets, and the economy. Recent graduates said they have student loan debt as high as \$120,000 and expect to spend years. They are postponing marriage and children until they have more stability. The graduates didn't understand the magnitude of the debt they would they would end up with after college. They didn't understand as teenagers the impact student loan debt would have on them.

Williams Elliot, Director of Assets and Education Initiative at the University of Kansas said, "Most people do not understand the magnitude of student loan debt. Student loans are too big a part of how we finance college. The current college funding system requires changes, but

research shows people are better off than if they didn't go to college. At a minimum, graduates will spend 10 years paying off student loans, and some people may spend 20-40 years paying off their loans. People are making different life decisions because of their student loan debt.”

Robert Hilton Smith did a study and said, “By the time graduates are 40 years old they can have less income because they are not buying stocks, bonds and real estate. Graduates have 60 percent less net worth, 40 percent less equity, and 52 percent less retirement savings. We have a generation of more debt. The wealth gap is growing which has a long-term effect. We have some options, such as help kids open savings account and match their contributions, early investment in Pell Grants, and extend range of when student loans aren't penalized. We have to look at short and long-term savings solutions. Colleges have a responsibility. For example, equity is less because graduates take on debt, but don't earn as much as others. Even if people work hard not everyone gets good results.”

This is a very important topic and I agree with both Mr. Elliot and Mr. Smith. Education is key, but we're providing students with student loan information far too late in their lives. High schools and parents should begin educating teens by their sophomore year and provide additional education all three years, so students are better prepared to make decisions about college and student loans before the time arrives. Also, I like Mr. Smith's options and believe we should implement each of them. Talking to students about college is not enough. They need to have a full understanding of what to expect as they begin their adult lives.

(2014, April 11). Jeremy Hobson. Here and Now. *NPR News Radio*.

Colbert to Succeed Letterman on 'Late Show.' NPR staff interviewed NPR T.V. Critic Eric Deggans. Deggans said, “The real Stephen Colbert will be on the late show. Colbert being himself is more laid back and doesn't crack as many jokes.” On the *Colbert Report* he plays a

fake conservative. CBS or Colbert have not indicated any desire for him to leave New York. The five late night shows are white males, slightly older versions of the target audience they are trying to get to watch the shows. Late night shows are a province of young males.

I watched Stephen Colbert every night after I watch Jon Stewart. Colbert is intelligent, witty, funny and interesting. He successfully speaks to conservatives the way I would like to be skilled at instead of getting frustrated with them. He has taught many people that we don't have to get ugly to make our point, and there shouldn't be anything that we can't discuss intelligently and keep the peace. Colbert will be an excellent addition and I am excited about his change, but will miss him on the *Colbert Report*. There have been some changes in the late night television hosts, and while all the changes are okay Colbert is the most significant and positive change that comes with a flair. Out of all the other late night hosts Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart have the best chance of capturing the target audiences.

Kennedy, K. (2014, April 13). Your insurance company is looking for you. MIAMI (AP) – Diabetics beware. *MSN.com*. Retrieved from <http://news.msn.com/us/with-new-health-law-insurers-target-diabetics>.

As hundreds of thousands of diabetes get health coverage under the federal law, insurance companies are aggressively targeting this glut of new patients, who are expensive to treat and often law in taking medications and following their diet.

Insurers are calling diabetics when they don't pick up prescriptions or miss appointments. They are arranging transportation to get them to the doctor's office and some are even sending nurses on house calls in an effort to avoid costly complications that will have a big impact on their bottom lines.

Before the Affordable Care Act, some diabetics struggled to find insurance because of their pre-existing condition. But the new law no longer allows companies to refuse them or charge more, making early intervention even more critical.

About 60 percent or so people with Type 2 diabetes can keep side effects at bay by simply managing sugar levels, exercising and watching their weight, said Dr. Sam Nussbaum, a former endocrinologist at Harvard's Massachusetts General Hospital and an executive vice president for the insurer WellPoint.

On the flip side, if the disease is ignored, it can lead to multiple, severe complications. It's the leading cause of heart disease, strokes, kidney failure and vision loss.

A relatively healthy person with diabetes can cost insurers around \$5,000 a year. "But if you let any of those long-term, difficult complication develop, then you're talking \$100,000 dollars plus," Nussbaum said.

About 26 million Americans have diabetes, and two-thirds of them are overweight or obese. Approximately 8 percent of Americans are estimated to have the disease, and insurers anticipate at least the percentage of the 7.5 million people now insured under the federal law will have diabetes.

WellPoint started recruiting diabetics last fall, when the health care law took effect, to a six-week program. The workshops in Atlanta, Indianapolis and St. Louis cover everything from monitoring sugar levels to finding emotional support. Early results have been positive.

"You're talking about an improved quality of life, but a lot less expenses related to chronic conditions that develop later...hypertension, end stage renal disease, lots of different conditions," said Kathy English, a former nurse who is spearheading the program. The

workshops focus on a single goal each week, making it easier by teaming up with a fellow diabetic known as an “accountability” partner.

Insurers have gotten savvy figuring out patients who skip appointments or aren’t taking their medicine, and many have customized plans for diabetics that offer everything from pharmacy home delivery services to home health aides.

These efforts are creative and inspiring and proof that people will learn how to think outside of the box. We can figure out ways to offset rising insurance costs, cover all Americans, and create new jobs by dealing with the changing variables as they come. We cannot cast any human being aside simply because they cannot or will not control their diet and exercise. Health insurance coverage for all should be a human right, so regardless of the growing pains Americans will experience I believe we are doing the right thing.

Calio, V. and Frohlich, T.C. (2014, April 13). 5 most unpopular CEOs in America. *MSN.com*. Retrieved from <http://t.money.msn.com/investing/5-most-unpopular-ceos-in-america>

Employee dissatisfaction. Whether because of poor leadership, excessive compensation or other complaints, these bosses score the most unfavorable reviews by their own employees.

A good manager understands the contribution of his or her employees. In return, managers often receive the respect of their workers. And indeed, more than two-thirds of American employees approve of – and even like – their companies’ chief executive officers.

Some CEOs, however, are not as popular with employees. At nine major companies, 40 percent or fewer employees gave their CEOs a positive review. Based on 24/7 Wall St.’s independent review of employee ratings provided by the career website Glassdoor.com, these CEOs have the worst reputations within their companies.

According to Glassdoor spokesperson Scott Dobroski, “While this list was compiled by independent research by 24/7 Wall St., it’s clear that some CEOs may want to take note that their own employees feel they can improve when it comes to leadership.”

A number of factors can hurt a CEO’s reputation within his or her own company, including a CEO’s propensity for humiliating the company in public, poor stewardship of the company or compensation packages that employees perceive to be excessive.

These unpopular executives may want to look at their better liked counterparts at other companies to determine how they can improve and win over their employees. According to Dobroski, well-liked executives focus on “clearly communicating their vision, including being transparent about where the company is going, how they’re going to get there, and how each employees plays a vital role in this.”

To identify the most unpopular CEOs, 24/7 Wall St. examined companies with at least 500 employee reviews on Glassdoor. Of the more than 225 qualifying companies, 24/7 Wall St. identified the nine CEOs with the lowest percentage of favorable reviews – 40. Retrieved from [http://247wallst.com/special-report/2014/04/04/nine-ceos-with-the-worst-reputations/percent or lower](http://247wallst.com/special-report/2014/04/04/nine-ceos-with-the-worst-reputations/percent-or-lower) (full story). Story published on April 4, 2014.