



Today in Liberty: Ukraine's fight for freedom, House GOP walks back plans for Obamacare alternative

Fri, 02/28/2014 - 8:50am | posted by Jason Pye

"The end of the law is, not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom." — John Locke

— **"We want to be free from a dictatorship":** Learn Liberty released a new, 30-second video early yesterday evening featuring a young protester from Ukraine who explains why she fought her country's regime. "I want you to know why thousands of people all over my country are on the streets," she says. "We want to be free from a dictatorship. We want to be free from the politicians who work only for themselves." Watch it. Because we seriously teared up.

— **House Republicans back away from Obamacare alternative vote:** Though House Republicans had hinted that they planned to vote on a comprehensive alternative to Obamacare this year, party leaders are now backtracking. "Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) declined to commit to an alternative measure coming up for a vote this year," Politico reports, "but said GOP leadership is going to 'continue to having conversations with our members' about items like tax reform and replacing President Barack Obama's signature domestic legislation." Meanwhile, voters are waiting for something more than show votes.

— **Rand Paul warns Tea Party to watch their tone:** During an event hosted by Tea Party Patriots to mark the five-year anniversary of the Tea Party movement, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) warned grassroots activists to watch what they say. "In order for us to be a bigger party, we have to reach out to more people, not just those of us here," Paul told the crowd, according to *The Hill*. "It has to be a bigger party, it has to be a bigger movement."

— **Obama isn't too fond of Millennials:** By pushing an increase in the federal minimum wage, Jeff Scully argues that President Obama has demonstrated his contempt for Millennials who often rely on low-wage, entry-level jobs to gain skills for the future. "Millennials: take a step back from today's politics, which are dumbing-down free thinking and think about an idea. Maybe a technological advancement, a better way to provide a service, whatever it may be. Take that idea and put it into action, create something in SPITE of government and use your mind and labor to provide something unique in the market, something that will provide far more than \$10.10 an hour for you and future employees," wrote Scully at FreedomWorks' blog. "That's the rebellious American spirit that young people once had. President Obama is setting a limit in the minds of millions of young Americans as to their potential in life. It's up to us to scale government back and let the free flow of ideas once again be the spark that ignited the most innovative economy on earth."

— **Oh, look, another costly regulatory mandate:** You can't read or do math, apparently. That's why the Obama administration, led by First Lady Michelle Obama, is forcing food makers to put new nutrition labels on packaging to, according to Ashe Schow, "make it easier for families to tell whether food is healthy." Because, you know, the old labels didn't make it clear enough. "Oh, and the minor change to the label is estimated to cost the food industry \$2 billion," Schow added. "So there's that."

— **California sees surge in concealed carry permits:** Following the recent victory for the Second Amendment in the Ninth District Court of Appeals, two California counties have seen a rise in concealed carry permit requests. "More than 500 applications have poured in to the Orange County Sheriff's Department in just two weeks — roughly the total number of applications filed in 2013, a spokesman said," Fox News notes. "Similarly, in Ventura County, where officials also elected to immediately drop the 'good cause' requirement, a tide of applications is expected." The Ninth Circuit determined that the "good cause" regulation violated the Second Amendment.

— **Bitcoin means "white privilege," or something:** ThinkProgress blogger Annie-Rose Strasser has written a screed against Bitcoin in which she says that Bitcoin and other alternative currencies are for rich, white libertarian men. *Reason's* Brian Doherty explains that Strasser's missive has less to do with Bitcoin, and more to do with people she doesn't like. "The article as a whole ends up implying that it just doesn't matter how useful the tool might be to poor, blacks, women, the underprivileged, etc, as a (likely) noninflationary way to store or transmit value, because she doesn't like libertarians," wrote Doherty. "In fact, it is the very 'unbanked' who she goes on to discuss and who she seems to think only government can help that will likely, as awareness and stability in digital currencies spread, benefit from it the most."

— **Just 6% believe Obamacare is working:** Though there are a few different ways to read this particular poll result, 92% of Americans believe that changes are needed to Obamacare or the law needs to be repealed entirely. Just 6% say that Obamacare is working and should be kept in place as is.

— **South Carolina Chamber of Obamacare:** That's right, folks, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce is urging state senators to vote against a measure that would prevent state agencies from participating in Obamacare. The Chamber hilariously claims that the bill "negatively impacts the business community and will hinder economic development." Wait, WAT?

— **Cato Institute to screen documentary on school choice:** On Tuesday, March 18, the Cato Institute will host a screening of *The Ticket: The Many Faces of School Choice*, a documentary that focuses on school choice initiatives around the United States. The event will also include a Q&A with Bob Bowdon, director and producer of the documentary. Full details of the event are available [here](#).

— **Why haven't global temperatures risen in the last 15 years?:** We're glad you asked, and Anthony Watts, a meteorologist and blogger at Watts Up With That?, has a list of the top 10 reasons we've seen a pause in warming in the past several years.

