




State of the Union Address May Highlight Dem Divides

Key Democratic Policy Divisions



Issue	White House's Position	Democratic Critics' Position	Notable Democratic Critics
 International Trade	The Obama Administration negotiated the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement and is seeking Congressional passage in 2016.	Many Congressional Democrats oppose the trade agreement, citing insufficient provisions on the environment, workers' rights, food safety, and domestic wages.	Reps. Rosa DeLauro (CT), Louise Slaughter (NY), Jan Schakowsky (IL), Barbara Lee (CA), and Peter DeFazio (OR); Sens. Sherrod Brown (OH) and Elizabeth Warren (MA)
 Immigration	The Department of Homeland Security, working with the White House, deported over 120 individuals, in part as a response to an increase in immigration from Central America last year.	Around 90 Congressional Democrats signed a letter demanding an end to recent raids. Many Democrats argue that these Central American immigrants should be treated as refugees and that surprise raids are counterproductive.	Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Rep. Linda Sanchez (CA), Ranking Member of the House Homeland Security Committee Rep. Bennie Thompson (MS), Rep. Luis Gutiérrez (IL)
 Iran Deal	The Obama Administration announced new sanctions against Iran in response to a ballistic missile test, but then subsequently delayed the new sanctions indefinitely, possibly in response to Iranian claims that such sanctions would violate last year's nuclear accord.	Several Democrats wrote a letter to the White House demanding "immediate, punitive action" against Iran, although most Democrats oppose GOP legislation that would force the administration to maintain sanctions related to the missile test and terrorism funding.	Ranking Member of House Foreign Affairs Committee Rep. Eliot Engel (NY), Ranking Member of House Appropriations Committee Rep. Nita Lowey (NY), Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY), Chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schulz (FL), Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Sen. Bob Menendez (NJ)

Sources: National Journal Research, 2016; Mike Lillis, "Obama, Democrats at Odds Before State of the Union Address," January 12, 2016.