

THE **RSC** BUDGET

# RESTORING AMERICA'S *Golden Age*





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Fellow Americans,

Over the past several decades, the federal government has grown exponentially in size and scope, creating unprecedented levels of debt, regulatory burden, and bureaucratic overreach that threaten the economic prosperity and individual liberty that define the American Dream. The Republican Study Committee (RSC), the largest conservative caucus in the House of Representatives, presents a comprehensive vision for Restoring America's Golden Age rooted in pro-growth policies, fiscal responsibility, and limited government. This framework reflects policies that reduce regulatory burdens, simplify the tax code, and empower free markets to deliver prosperity for working families across the nation.

At its core, the RSC Budget is a fundamental rejection of the excessive government spending and regulatory overreach that characterized the Biden Administration's approach to government. Years of reckless spending have mortgaged our children's future and created dangerous levels of national debt that threaten long-term economic stability. The RSC Budget takes difficult but necessary steps to restore fiscal discipline while protecting essential government functions and maintaining commitments to our most vulnerable citizens. Rather than expanding the federal bureaucracy's reach into every aspect of American life, the RSC Budget charts a course back to constitutional principles and the free-market solutions that built the world's most prosperous economy by balancing the federal budget in ten years.

The RSC Budget is committed to delivering for the American people by improving lives and strengthening communities. By removing government barriers to opportunity and ensuring that hard work and entrepreneurship are rewarded rather than penalized, the RSC Budget unleashes the productive capacity of the American economy and restores our competitive advantage in global markets. The RSC Budget implements pro-growth policies to ensure working families thrive and the American economy soars. These policies recognize that the government's role is not to pick winners and losers or redistribute wealth, but to create the conditions under which free markets and individuals can succeed without government interference.

Republican leadership in Washington has already delivered historic wins by passing reconciliation legislation, which achieved unprecedented tax relief for working families, border security, and a \$1.9 trillion reduction in federal spending.<sup>1</sup> These victories

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/MSR\\_2026.pdf#page=9](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/MSR_2026.pdf#page=9)

demonstrate what can be accomplished when principled conservatives have the tools and mandate to govern effectively. Thanks to the combined efforts of the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans in enacting deregulatory, pro-growth policies, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) projects the federal deficit will decline by 50 percent compared to the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) deficit estimate in January 2025.<sup>2</sup> Further, the U.S. is on track to reach a three percent debt-to-GDP ratio by 2028.<sup>3</sup> The RSC will continue to advance conservative policies that prioritize individual liberty, free markets, and constitutional government over the failed progressive ideology that has burdened taxpayers, divided Americans, and stifled economic growth. This commitment is a sustained effort to realign American governance with American values. Central to this mission is advocating for fiscal responsibility at every level of government.

A critical component of restoring fiscal responsibility involves a return to pre-pandemic spending levels. The extraordinary measures taken during the COVID-19 pandemic were never intended to become permanent features of the federal budget. The pandemic is over, and emergency spending must end. The RSC Budget takes the necessary steps to restore spending discipline that reflects genuine national priorities rather than political opportunism. This approach acknowledges that fiscal responsibility requires difficult choices and the political courage to say no to special interests and advocacy groups that have grown accustomed to taxpayers' funding their preferred programs. The RSC Budget makes these hard choices while ensuring that legitimate government functions are properly funded.

The RSC Budget provides a roadmap for balancing the federal budget in ten years and restoring America's position as the world's most prosperous, innovative, and free society. It represents the collective wisdom of conservative lawmakers who understand that limited government, individual liberty, and free markets are not just abstract concepts but practical solutions to the challenges facing our nation. Through principled leadership, fiscal discipline, and unwavering commitment to conservative values, the RSC Budget will help ensure the American Dream is attainable for generations to come.



Rep. August Pfluger

Chairman, Republican Study Committee



Rep. Beth Van Duyne

Chair, RSC Budget & Spending Task Force

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/MSR\\_2026.pdf#page=9](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/MSR_2026.pdf#page=9)

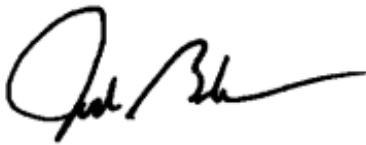
<sup>3</sup> <https://x.com/SecScottBessent/status/1978921267722871218>



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## Promoting Economic Growth

### **Empowering Americans Through Tax Reform**

The federal government has taken over \$98 trillion in wealth out of the hands of Americans since 1789 through taxes and other revenue sources.<sup>4</sup> To the lament of Americans everywhere, the size of government has increased dramatically since the ratification of the 16th Amendment in 1913, which gave the federal government the power to tax income. Bureaucrats in Washington believe they know how to spend your money better than you.

Less than one year of Republican control in Washington has already resulted in historic tax cuts for the American people. Drawing on the successes of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) and building upon the policy achievements of the Trump Administration's first term, the RSC Budget supports legislation to extend and expand pro-business tax policies while addressing the economic challenges facing American workers, farmers, and small business owners.

By permanently extending key tax provisions from TCJA, the 2025 Republican reconciliation law eliminated burdensome provisions that complicated the tax code for Americans. These policies will advance the conservative principle that working families are best helped and economic growth is best achieved when government steps back and allows the private sector to innovate, invest, and create jobs.

### **Success of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act**

During President Trump's first term, Congressional Republicans passed TCJA and enacted the most sweeping update to the U.S. tax code in over 30 years. TCJA dramatically simplified taxes for Americans while promoting pro-growth, pro-business tax policy. Prior to TCJA, the United States had one of the highest corporate tax rates among all Organization for Economic and Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries at 35 percent.

TCJA lowered the corporate rate to 21 percent, bringing it in line with OECD average rates.<sup>5</sup> Contrary to the pessimistic projections of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in 2017 during the passage of TCJA, federal revenues reached a record high of \$4.9 trillion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, \$884 billion higher than CBO's prediction, and corporate revenues reached a record high of \$425 billion.<sup>6</sup> During the Obama Administration, 28 American corporations

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-resources/budget/historical-tables/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://taxfoundation.org/taxedu/glossary/tax-cuts-and-jobs-act/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2024/05/09/despite-cbos-predictions-trump-tax-cuts-were-a-boon-for-americas-economy-and-working-families/>

moved their headquarters and cash overseas to escape the excessive corporate tax rates in the U.S. Since the passage of TCJA, *no American corporation has moved its headquarters overseas*, ensuring jobs stay in the U.S. and the U.S. economy continues to grow.<sup>7</sup>

TCJA also doubled the standard deduction for single filers and for married couples filing jointly, dramatically simplifying tax filing for the vast majority of Americans. This change alone reduced the complexity of tax preparation for millions of households while providing immediate tax relief. By significantly increasing the standard deduction, TCJA reduced the number of taxpayers who needed to itemize every deduction when filing their taxes, eliminating the need for millions of Americans to track and document expenses such as mortgage interest, state and local taxes, and charitable contributions. This streamlined the tax filing process by allowing more taxpayers to simply claim the standard deduction rather than navigating the complex calculations and record-keeping requirements associated with itemized deductions.

Furthermore, TCJA doubled the child tax credit (CTC) and expanded eligibility for the CTC by raising the income phase-out thresholds. These comprehensive changes to individual tax provisions gave Americans earning less than \$100,000 an average tax cut of 16 percent and increased real median household income by \$5,000.<sup>8</sup> TCJA put more money directly into the pockets of working American families. The Trump tax cuts in TCJA provided tangible victories for American families but were set to expire at the end of 2025.

### **Tax Relief for American Families**

Making these TCJA provisions permanent has been a key priority in the annual RSC Budget, reflecting RSC Members' unwavering commitment to reducing the tax burden on hardworking American families. Last November, following years of disastrous policies under the Biden Administration, the American people entrusted Republicans with control of Congress and the White House. As soon as the Republican trifecta took hold in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, Republicans got to work on legislation to prevent a \$4.5 trillion tax increase on the American people, which would have been the largest tax hike in American history. Republicans in Congress passed historic reconciliation legislation in record time to provide tax relief for American families.

This historic legislation is a transformative victory for taxpayers at every income level. It increases the standard deduction by a substantial \$1,500 for every taxpayer and increases

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<sup>7</sup> <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2024/12/27/trump-tax-cuts-kept-american-companies-and-jobs-in-america/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2024/05/09/despite-cbos-predictions-trump-tax-cuts-were-a-boon-for-americas-economy-and-working-families/>



after-tax incomes for taxpayers across all income levels by 2.9 percent on average.<sup>9</sup> The bill also increases the CTC to \$2,200 and ensures the CTC will be annually adjusted for inflation going forward, protecting American families from the eroding effects of inflation. Thanks to the Republican reconciliation law, the average family of four making less than \$100,000 will receive an additional \$600 in tax cuts next year. Contrary to the fearmongering being spread, Republicans' budget reconciliation law provides the most significant relief to low-income families. Americans earning less than \$50,000 annually will see their taxes cut by an impressive 14.9 percent on average, thanks to Republicans' historic legislation.<sup>10</sup> That substantial reduction will make a real, measurable difference in the lives of working Americans, empowering them to better provide for their families, invest in their futures, and keep more of their hard-earned money.

## **Supporting American Workers**

The Republican reconciliation law boldly eliminates taxes on tips and taxes on overtime, fulfilling a cornerstone campaign promise made by President Trump to hard-working Americans. This will directly impact millions of service industry and hourly workers across America. It will boost the income for 4 million workers who rely on tips by \$1,300 on average this year and it will boost income for over 80 million hourly workers who stay late, come in early, and keep the American economy thriving by \$1,400 on average.<sup>11</sup> Americans will now have more money for rent, groceries, childcare, and other necessities. This is especially critical after the devastating economic damage from the Biden Administration's reckless government spending spree, crushing regulatory overreach, and misguided fiscal policies. Eliminating tax on tips and overtime provides critical, immediate relief to hard-working Americans who suffered the most from the Biden Administration's economically destructive policies and complete disregard for the struggle of everyday families trying to pay their bills.

## **Promoting Long-Term Savings**

The RSC has long supported the creation of Universal Savings Accounts to allow all Americans to flexibly invest in their future, free of excessive government taxation. The 2025 reconciliation law built on this idea by creating Trump Accounts, which are tax-deferred investment accounts for all newborn American children. The funds in Trump Accounts will

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<sup>9</sup> [https://taxfoundation.org/research/all/federal/one-big-beautiful-bill-act-tax-changes/?utm\\_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz--byS3CQYDuvADUG3kto7sl2XLYX3j11C-YroKOmn7xfG4lWHpW3VGGKoDFwXBUMbDP7i6ES2yhKcipPFmDjfq1-nQJXmdFr9CPMCeloVHHvHs8ATs&hsmi=372894768&utm\\_content=372894768&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://taxfoundation.org/research/all/federal/one-big-beautiful-bill-act-tax-changes/?utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz--byS3CQYDuvADUG3kto7sl2XLYX3j11C-YroKOmn7xfG4lWHpW3VGGKoDFwXBUMbDP7i6ES2yhKcipPFmDjfq1-nQJXmdFr9CPMCeloVHHvHs8ATs&hsmi=372894768&utm_content=372894768&utm_source=hs_email)

<sup>10</sup> <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2025reconciliation/fact-sheets/the-one-big-beautiful-bill-delivers-biggest-wins-for-the-working-class/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2025reconciliation/fact-sheets/put-american-workers-first/>

be invested in a diversified fund that tracks an established index of U.S. equities. Parents, relatives, and other taxable entities, as well as non-profit and government entities facilitated by the Treasury Department, will be eligible to make contributions to a child's Trump Account until they turn 18. The federal government will deposit \$1,000 into a Trump Account for every U.S. citizen born between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2028.<sup>12</sup> Trump Accounts will incentivize education, entrepreneurship, and home ownership while building financial security for America's children.

The RSC Budget builds upon Trump Accounts by creating Universal Savings Accounts (USAs) to allow all Americans to flexibly invest in their future free of extra taxation. These accounts would allow some of the savings of American families, already taxed twice through income taxes, to avoid a third round of taxation through the capital gains tax.<sup>13</sup>

### **Protecting Taxpayers from IRS Spying**

As part of the disastrous and inflationary American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) passed by Democrats in 2021, the Biden Administration and Congressional Democrats authorized the IRS to spy on taxpayers, independent contractors, and gig workers who make more than \$600 worth of transactions through payment applications and third-party payment platforms like Venmo and PayPal in a given year.<sup>14</sup> Over 90 percent of the tax burden from this change fell on Americans earning less than \$200,000 annually. Republicans repealed this egregious federal overreach to provide tax and paperwork relief to small businesses and workers. This is yet another pro-growth, pro-worker policy the RSC has advocated for that will allow the American economy to thrive.

### **Pro-Growth Policies Power the Economy**

The Republican reconciliation law advances the tax priorities outlined in previous RSC Budgets and represents a comprehensive approach to economic policy that builds upon the foundation of the 2017 Trump tax cuts. By permanently extending key economic tax policies that were previously set to expire, the legislation provides businesses with the long-term certainty they need to make substantial capital investments and strategic planning decisions. This permanent extension eliminates the uncertainty that often causes businesses to delay major investments while waiting to see if favorable tax policies will continue.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/06/trump-accounts-will-chart-path-to-prosperity-for-a-generation-of-american-kids/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://taxfoundation.org/research/all/federal/universal-savings-accounts-financial-security/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/news/nta-blog/form-1099-k-part-two/2024/02/>

The legislation makes 100 percent, full and immediate expensing permanent, allowing businesses to deduct the entire cost of qualifying investments in the year they are made rather than spreading those deductions over multiple years through depreciation schedules. The ability to immediately write-off these investments significantly improves cash flow for businesses undertaking major capital projects and reduces the administrative burden of tracking long-term depreciation. Coupled with the permanent research and development expensing in the bill, businesses can now write off both their physical investments and their innovation costs immediately, creating powerful incentives for technological advancement and infrastructure development.

According to economic projections, these expensing provisions will drive a 7 percent increase in business investment across the economy, as companies find it more attractive to purchase new equipment, build new facilities, and invest in research projects when the tax benefits are immediate and permanent. This surge in investment activity is expected to increase annual wages by over \$1,600 per worker on average, thanks to policies the RSC has long advocated for.<sup>15</sup>

### **International Competitiveness**

The 2025 reconciliation law addresses critical international tax policy reforms to ensure American companies can compete effectively in global markets. By providing a permanent deduction for interest expensing, the bill eliminates a significant cost burden that made U.S. companies less competitive against foreign counterparts operating under more favorable tax regimes. This provision is particularly important for capital-intensive industries that rely heavily on debt financing for expansion and operations. These international tax policy reforms create a comprehensive framework that encourages companies to maintain their headquarters and primary operations in the U.S. rather than relocating to lower-tax jurisdictions, as happened frequently prior to the passage of TCJA.

### **American Manufacturing and Small Businesses**

American manufacturing will thrive under the tax provisions in the 2025 reconciliation law which will incentivize building new manufacturing facilities in the U.S. These provisions make it financially attractive for companies to choose American locations over foreign alternatives when expanding their production capacity. This will lead to billions of dollars in new factory construction, equipment purchases, and infrastructure development, boosting investment in U.S. manufacturing by 3.8 percent.<sup>16</sup> These policies will collectively secure 7.2

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<sup>15</sup> <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2025reconciliation/fact-sheets/fuels-americas-economic-growth/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2025reconciliation/fact-sheets/fuels-americas-economic-growth/>

million American jobs directly and indirectly related to manufacturing activities. The ripple effect will extend through local economies as workers spend their wages on housing, goods, and services. A projected \$284 billion will be generated in economic growth from American manufacturers thanks to these provisions.<sup>17</sup>

Small businesses are key drivers of innovation and job creation and are particularly critical to rural economies. The permanent extension of the 20 percent deduction for small businesses provides significant tax relief and certainty. This deduction, also known as the Section 199A qualified business income deduction, allows pass-through entities such as sole proprietorships, partnerships, and S corporations to deduct up to 20 percent of their qualified business income from their taxable income. By making this deduction permanent, small business owners have the confidence to make long-term investments and hiring decisions without worrying about future tax increases.

The permanent 20 percent small business deduction will create over 1 million new small business jobs and generate over \$750 billion in economic growth from small businesses.<sup>18</sup> These jobs are especially valuable because small businesses are deeply invested in the local community and span diverse sectors of the economy. Additionally, small businesses now have double the limit on immediate expensing, allowing them to invest in their employees and grow their businesses. This raises the threshold for equipment and property purchases that can be fully deducted in the year of purchase, which is especially valuable for small businesses which often have limited cash flow. These policies protect and support rural Americans and help Main Street grow again.

## **Eliminate The Death Tax**

Estate taxes, commonly referred to as the 'death tax,' impose yet another layer of taxation on the work of prior generations to build businesses and create thriving communities. The death tax is particularly damaging for America's farmers and agriculture producers. It forces families grieving the loss of a loved one to liquidate the life's work of their parents or grandparents in order to comply with the death tax. All productive capital across an economy has the possibility of facing this layer of taxation in the future. This prospect hangs over, and devalues, all investment in new production and innovation and ultimately hurts working Americans through fewer jobs, lower wages, and lost opportunity. Further, the truly wealthy avoid paying this tax by hiring experienced estate planners who exploit every possible loophole to ensure the ultra-wealthy avoid paying the estate tax.<sup>19</sup> A 2025 study

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<sup>17</sup> <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2025reconciliation/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2025reconciliation/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.businessdefense.org/post/milton-friedman-an-open-letter-from-economists-on-the-estate-tax>



shows every \$1 in death tax revenue results in \$5 in lost revenue from other taxes due to the economic damage the death tax causes to family-owned farms and businesses.<sup>20</sup>

RSC Members have long advocated for eliminating the death tax and worked to ensure the 2025 reconciliation law included a provision to significantly increase the death tax threshold and index it for inflation going forward. This is significant progress in the right direction. The RSC Budget fully repeals the death tax.

## **America-First Tax Policies**

Upon taking office, President Trump immediately set to work reversing the discriminatory foreign trade practices accepted by the Biden Administration. Over the past decade, the OECD developed plans requiring the world's largest multinational companies to pay taxes in the countries where they generate sales, rather than only where they are headquartered, and to implement a burdensome global minimum tax. These changes would have primarily and unfairly affected U.S.-based corporations. The OECD Global Tax Deal would have allowed other countries to control American income, limited America's ability to craft its own tax policies, and left American companies at the mercy of retaliatory international tax regimes. The Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) found the U.S. would lose over \$120 billion in revenue under the OECD proposal negotiated by the Biden Administration.<sup>21</sup>

President Trump issued an executive order on his first day in office immediately withdrawing from the plan agreed to by the Biden Administration and directing the Secretary of the Treasury and United States Trade Representative (USTR) to investigate any foreign countries that had tax rules disproportionately impacting American companies.<sup>22</sup> RSC Members built on this momentum by including retaliatory countermeasures against any foreign government imposing unfair taxes on American business in the House-passed reconciliation law.<sup>23</sup>

The threat of these retaliatory provisions strengthened the Trump Administration's negotiating position, ultimately leading to a new agreement that protects American workers and businesses. This new framework establishes a system which allows different countries to operate parallel minimum tax regimes rather than adhering to a single, unified global standard.<sup>24</sup> Under this arrangement, U.S. companies are exempt from the OECD's Income Rule and Undertaxed Profit Rule, enabling the United States to maintain its own

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.businessdefense.org/post/new-evidence-on-the-business-effects-of-the-estate-tax>

<sup>21</sup> [https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/118-0228b\\_june\\_2023.pdf](https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/118-0228b_june_2023.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/the-organization-for-economic-co-operation-and-development-oecd-global-tax-deal-global-tax-deal/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2025/06/04/the-one-big-beautiful-bill-fights-back-against-unfair-taxation-by-foreign-governments/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0181>

domestic minimum tax system without being required to implement OECD regulations.<sup>25</sup> Thanks to these actions, foreign governments cannot impose additional tax burdens on U.S. companies, ensuring American businesses maintain a competitive advantage in the global marketplace and supporting domestic economic growth.

Additionally, the Trump Administration has taken long-needed action against countries imposing digital services taxes (DSTs) that unfairly target American companies and punish American innovation. DSTs primarily impact U.S. companies because they use high revenue thresholds to determine applicability and tax gross revenue rather than net profits, effectively acting as a tariff on digital services.<sup>26</sup> In February, President Trump issued a presidential memorandum ordering an investigation into DST policies that disadvantage American companies and possible remedial actions.<sup>27</sup> President Trump's actions have already resulted in major wins for American companies as seen when Canada rescinded its DST policy.<sup>28</sup>

The RSC Budget supports the following bills and policies to protect American taxpayers and promote economic growth:

- Rep. Randy Feenstra's (R-IA) bill, the Death Tax Repeal Act, which would permanently repeal the death tax.
- Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene's (R-GA) bill, the No Tax on Home Sales Act, which would eliminate the federal capital gains tax on the sale of primary residences.
- Rep. Glenn Grothman's (R-WI) bill, the No Tax Subsidies for Stadiums Act, which would end the tax-exempt status of bonds for financing professional sports stadiums.
- Rep. Kevin Hern's (R-OK) bill, the Tackling Predatory Litigation Funding Act, which would curb frivolous lawsuits by taxing third-party litigation funding, which is tax-exempt under current law, at the highest individual income tax rate. Deals under \$10,000 or simple loans would be excluded from the tax.
- Speaker Mike Johnson's (R-LA) bill, the History and Tradition Protection Act, which would protect religious expression by eliminating attorneys' fees in civil cases that seek to remove public monuments and buildings for including religious language.
- Rep. Darin LaHood's (R-IL) bill, the Tax Administration Simplification Act, which would ensure that documents and payments submitted electronically are considered made on the date submitted, even if they are not received or reviewed until a later date. The bill would also allow newly formed small businesses to be

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<sup>25</sup> <https://taxfoundation.org/blog/global-tax-agreement/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://taxfoundation.org/blog/digital-services-tax-us-trade/>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/defending-american-companies-and-innovators-from-overseas-extortion-and-unfair-fines-and-penalties/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/news/2025/06/canada-rescinds-digital-services-tax-to-advance-broader-trade-negotiations-with-the-united-states.html>

treated as an S Corporation on their first tax filing and revise the estimated tax payment deadlines to fall quarterly instead of the current irregular payment schedule.

- Rep. David Rouzer's (R-NC) bill, the No Hires for Delinquent IRS Act, which would prohibit the hiring of any additional IRS employees until the Department of the Treasury publicly certifies in writing the IRS does not employ any individual who has a seriously delinquent tax debt.
- Rep. Jason Smith's (R-MO) bill, the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act, which would extend the statute of limitations for fraudulent unemployment claims funded by federal pandemic unemployment programs and allowing law enforcement to continue prosecuting criminals and recover billions of taxpayer dollars lost to fraud during COVID-19.
- Rep. Jason Smith's (R-MO) bill, the United States-Taiwan Expedited Double-Tax Relief Act, which would end double taxation on cross-border investments between the U.S. and Taiwan and authorize the President to enter into a tax agreement relative to Taiwan. This would strengthen the U.S. economic alliance with Taiwan and enhance U.S. competitiveness.
- RSC Budget Task Force Chair Beth Van Duyne's (R-TX) bill, the Chemical Tax Repeal Act, which would repeal the Biden Administration's superfund tax that imposed \$15 billion in taxes on chemical manufacturers. Repealing this tax would lower the cost of household goods and improve global competitiveness for American manufacturers.
- RSC Budget Task Force Chair Beth Van Duyne's (R-TX) bill, the Uplifting First-Time Homebuyers Act, which would increase the amount first-time home buyers can withdraw, tax-exempt, from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to \$50,000. Under current law, first-time homebuyers are limited at withdrawing \$10,000 tax-exempt from their IRA. This limit has not been updated since 1997 when the median home price was \$115,000.<sup>29</sup>

### **Ensuring Fair Trade Practices**

The Trump Administration has launched a comprehensive America First trade policy to end decades of unfair foreign trade practices that have disadvantaged American companies and workers. For too long, American companies have faced much steeper barriers when exporting goods to foreign countries than foreign companies encountered when exporting to the U.S. This deficit was largely due to non-tariff trade barriers which intentionally hinder U.S. agriculture exports. Under President Trump's leadership, the U.S. has secured more

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<sup>29</sup> <https://vanduyne.house.gov/2025/6/rep-van-duyne-introduces-legislation-to-help-first-time-homebuyers#:~:text=June%204%2C%202025,IRA%20tax%20exemption%20withdrawal%20limit.>

than \$5 trillion in new investments into the U.S.<sup>30</sup> The RSC Budget supports America-first trade policies so the United States can restore its competitive advantage in the global economy while providing immediate relief to families struggling with the effects of inflation and economic uncertainty.

The Trump Administration is taking strong action to restore fairness for U.S. exporters in global trade by targeting countries that have previously discriminated against U.S. exporters. Not only is this rebalancing global trade, but it is also generating revenue for the U.S. RSC Members took action as well by permanently repealing the *de minimis* exemption which allowed imports under \$800 to enter the U.S. duty free. In 2015, 134 million *de minimis* shipments entered the U.S. By 2024, that number had increased to 1.36 billion as foreign countries, particularly China, increasingly abused the *de minimis* loophole.<sup>31</sup> This disadvantaged American manufacturing and enabled illicit fentanyl, synthetic opioids, and chemical pre-cursors to enter the U.S. through the low-security measures used for *de minimis* shipments. Ending the *de minimis* loophole is a major step in protecting U.S. companies, workers, and citizens. This America First trade policy is a fundamental shift toward ensuring fairness and reciprocity in global trade.

### **Supporting American Agriculture**

America's farmers will thrive under the provisions RSC Members secured in the 2025 reconciliation law, including increasing the federal estate tax limit, making the small business deduction permanent, increasing small business expensing, and allowing for immediate expensing of new production facilities.<sup>32</sup> Immediate expensing will help farmers purchase necessary equipment. Critically, the increased limit for the estate tax, or death tax, in the Republican reconciliation law is permanent and will be indexed for inflation going forward. This has long been a priority for RSC Members to ensure family farms and small businesses can be passed on to the next generation and, as previously mentioned, the RSC Budget fully repeals the death tax.

The agriculture industry and rural America have become the target of a radical regulatory agenda. This is best illustrated by the vilification of agriculture in the so-called Green New Deal,<sup>33</sup> as well as the Biden Administration's emphasis on "climate smart" agriculture. To make matters worse, the Biden Administration increasingly limited trade opportunities for

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<sup>30</sup> <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/op-eds/3501427/trumps-trade-agenda-will-fuel-an-economic-boom/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/07/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-is-protecting-the-united-states-national-security-and-economy-by-suspending-the-de-minimis-exemption-for-commercial-shipments-globally/>

<sup>32</sup> <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2025/06/03/american-farmers-benefit-from-the-one-big-beautiful-bill/>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-resolution/319/cosponsors?s=3&r=5>



farmers. In 2024 alone, a lack of market access led to a \$32 billion agriculture trade deficit.<sup>34</sup> Farmers depend on trade, but the Biden Administration's refusal to negotiate with foreign partners on new trade agreements and roll back non-tariff barriers to entry kept farmers out of foreign markets.

Thankfully, the Trump Administration has reversed the disastrous impacts of the Biden Administration's trade policies and negotiated landmark trade deals to eliminate non-tariff barriers that prevented American agriculture exports. For example, President Trump negotiated a deal with the European Union, under which the European Union will make \$600 billion in investments in the U.S. and will address various requirements that effectively prohibit U.S. agriculture imports, including streamlining regulatory requirements for sanitary certificates for pork and dairy products.<sup>35</sup> This is one of many groundbreaking trade deals that will enable U.S. agriculture producers to sell their products abroad.

These trade initiatives help level the playing field against foreign competitors who often benefit from government subsidies and unfair practices. By reducing trade barriers and securing preferential access to key markets, American farmers are empowered to reach their full potential and compete on their merits. These policies ensure American agriculture remains competitive and profitable in an increasingly interconnected world economy.

It is important for a conservative budget to reduce regulatory burdens on the agriculture industry. Unnecessary government regulation strangles American farmers with more red tape, excessive compliance costs, and bureaucratic interference. This threatens farmers' ability to operate an efficient and profitable business. Under the Biden Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued onerous regulations prohibiting the use of chlorpyrifos on food crops grown in the U.S., reversed longstanding practices of federal preemption under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), and reopened Waters of the United States (WOTUS) regulations.<sup>36</sup> The actions of just one agency left farmers dealing with a slew of federal mandates that increased costs, reduced productivity, and diverted time and resources away from actual farming.

Common-sense deregulation allows agriculture producers to focus on growing food and managing their operations according to sound agricultural practices, rather than Washington bureaucrats' whims. Cutting unnecessary regulations does not compromise safety or environmental protection. Rather, it enables farmers to make responsible

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<sup>34</sup> <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2025/04/11/seven-key-moments-hearing-on-president-trumps-trade-agenda-with-ambassador-jamieson-greer/>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/07/fact-sheet-the-united-states-and-european-union-reach-massive-trade-deal/>

<sup>36</sup> [https://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/overview\\_and\\_bill\\_summary\\_-\\_the\\_reduce\\_farm\\_input\\_costs\\_and\\_barriers\\_to\\_domestic\\_production\\_act.pdf](https://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/overview_and_bill_summary_-_the_reduce_farm_input_costs_and_barriers_to_domestic_production_act.pdf)

decisions while giving them the flexibility they need to adapt to changing conditions and market demands.

America's farmers and ranchers are the backbone of our economy, driving a vital sector that generated more than 43 million jobs, \$2.3 trillion in wages, \$718 billion in tax revenue, \$183 billion in exports, and \$7.4 trillion in economic activity in 2022 alone.<sup>37</sup> The RSC Budget recognizes the critical importance of supporting these hardworking producers while ensuring federal programs enhance rather than undermine their success.

Our nation's farmers are skilled entrepreneurs and business leaders who thrive when they can respond to market opportunities and consumer demands. The purpose of federal farm support programs should be to provide a reliable safety net that helps these innovative producers weather unexpected disasters, severe market disruptions, or other circumstances beyond their control. Government subsidies should not undermine the market-driven decision-making that has made American agriculture the most productive and efficient in the world.

Agricultural subsidy programs work best when they respect farmers' expertise and business acumen. When support becomes predictable annual payments rather than targeted emergency assistance, it can inadvertently discourage the very innovation, efficiency, and market responsiveness that makes our farmers successful competitors on the global stage.

America's agricultural producers want the freedom to farm for markets, using their skills and knowledge to meet consumer needs while building sustainable operations. Federal programs are important backup and support during genuine crises, not a substitute for the market signals that guide smart farming decisions. The RSC Budget honors both farmers' capabilities and taxpayers' investment, ensuring agriculture programs provide meaningful help when truly needed while empowering farmers to feed America and the world through innovative, market-driven agriculture.

### **Reforming Financial Regulations**

Financial markets are what enable the economic growth, innovation, and mobility that allow working-class families to enjoy standards of living unknown to previous generations. A free and dynamic financial sector is how low- and middle-income families gain access to the capital necessary to finance going to school, buying a home, starting a small business, and fulfilling their version of the American Dream. Access to credit allows unused resources from productive industries to provide the seed capital of the next American success story.

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<sup>37</sup> [https://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/committee\\_on\\_agriculture\\_budget\\_views\\_and\\_estimates\\_letter\\_fy2024.pdf](https://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/committee_on_agriculture_budget_views_and_estimates_letter_fy2024.pdf)

When combined with the reckless spending under President Biden, the quantitative easing policies of the Biden-era Federal Reserve injected trillions of dollars in new currency into the American economy. The resulting inflation spurred the Federal Reserve to dramatically increase interest rates, a decision the American people are still suffering from. The RSC Budget calls for a return to sound, rules-based monetary policy.

Under the Biden Administration, federal agencies pressured banks to cut off services to businesses, or debank, based solely on political or social factors by using Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) metrics rather than legitimate safety or financial soundness concerns to score reputational risk. This practice tied political ideology to economic opportunity and eroded Americans' trust in the financial sector. Thankfully, the Trump Administration has taken steps to reverse the disastrous Biden-era debanking policies.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) was created as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act in 2010 to purportedly protect consumers from predatory lending practices and abusive financial products. In practice, the CFPB has stifled innovation and competition in the financial sector and exacerbated government overreach. The CFPB lacks Congressional oversight and is not subject to annual appropriations. Further, the CFPB's regulations have imposed high compliance costs for businesses and consumers, reduced credit access for lower-income Americans and small businesses, and stifled innovation and competition.

The RSC Budget supports the following bills and policies:

- Rep. Rick Allen's (R-GA) bill, the Protecting Americans' Investments from Woke Policies Act, which would amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to require fiduciaries of employer-sponsored retirement plans to make investment decisions based only on pecuniary factors, and not woke ESG considerations.
- Rep. Andy Barr's (R-KY) bill, the Financial Integrity and Regulation Management (FIRM) Act, which would legally prohibit federal banking regulators from using 'reputational risk' as a justification to deny financial services to a business or individual.
- Rep. Andy Barr's (R-KY) bill, the Taking Account of Bureaucrats' Spending (TABS) Act, which would subject the CFPB to the annual appropriations process just like other federal agencies.
- Rep. Warren Davidson's (R-OH) bill, the FAIR Act, which would revoke the Federal Reserve's authority to pay interest on bank reserves.
- Rep. Troy Downing's (R-MT) bill, the Federal Insurance Office Elimination Act, which would return regulatory authority over the insurance industry back to individual

states by abolishing the Department of Treasury's Federal Insurance Office (FIO). FIO was created by Dodd-Frank in 2010.<sup>38</sup>

- Majority Whip Tom Emmer's (R-MN) bill, the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act, which would protect Americans' financial privacy and freedom from government control by blocking the Federal Reserve from directly or indirectly issuing a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) to any individual. It would also prevent the Federal Reserve from using a CBDC to implement monetary policy and require Congress to authorize the issuance of any CBDC.
- Rep. French Hill's (R-AR) bill, the Digital Asset Market Clarity Act, which would establish a clear and functional regulatory framework for digital assets, clarify the lines between the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's (CFTC) jurisdiction over digital commodities and the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) jurisdiction over digital assets. It would also promote innovation and strengthen the digital asset market while implementing strong consumer protections and accountability measures.
- Rep. Ronny Jackson's (R-TX) bill, the Advisory Committees Free of ESG Act, which would prohibit the establishment of any federal advisory committees based on ESG. The bill also terminates any existing advisory committee authorized or implemented based on ESG.
- Rep. Chip Roy's (R-TX) bill, the No ESG at TSP Act, which would prohibit investments under the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) in mutual funds based on ESG criteria.
- Rep. Roger Williams' (R-TX) bill, the Equal Shot Act, which would prevent the Small Business Administration (SBA) from limiting lending or assistance to the firearms industry.

### **Unleashing American Energy**

The RSC Budget takes bold and necessary action to restore America's Golden Age by ending the Biden Administration's Nightmare. The Biden Administration was asleep at the wheel as their policies reduced wages, raised prices, and distorted market signals. Among many new regulations, the Biden Administration championed the following:

- The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which advanced a radical climate agenda at the cost of Americans' energy affordability, reliability, and security.
- The Clean Power Plan 2.0, which destabilized the nation's electric grid and led to the premature retirement of baseload power plants.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-markets-financial-institutions-and-fiscal-service/federal-insurance-office/about-fio>

<sup>39</sup> <https://energycommerce.house.gov/posts/e-and-c-republicans-lead-cra-to-reverse-president-biden-s-attack-on-affordable-reliable-american-power>



- The Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards, which increased regulatory and permitting burdens for energy producers and manufacturers.<sup>40</sup>
- The California Clean Air Act Waivers for multiple heavy-duty vehicle programs and new passenger vehicles, which limited consumer choice, raised costs, and deepened our nation's reliance on China.
- A ban on new export permits for liquid natural gas, which hurt our nation's allies, discouraged production, and undermined American energy dominance.
- A ban on new oil and gas leasing on federal lands and offshore waters and reduced or cancelled scheduled lease sales, which discouraged energy production, undermined American energy dominance, and ignored America's ability to produce oil and gas products more cleanly than any other country.
- Support for Nord Stream 2, which endangered allies and partners in Europe and emboldened Russia's manipulation of prices and supply to secure political acquiescence.<sup>41</sup>
- Methane Fees, which crushed innovation, decreased production, and punished the American energy industry.<sup>42</sup>
- Risk Management Plan, which laid new compliance burdens and associated costs on refiners, manufacturers, and other key facilities.<sup>43</sup>
- Emissions Standards for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles, which limited consumer choice, raised costs, and deepened our nation's reliance on China.
- National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants Rules, which levied unreasonable regulatory burdens on American manufacturers without any quantification of public health benefits.
- Good Neighbor Plan, which discouraged American energy dominance by requiring factories and power plants to reduce production.
- National Advisory Committee on Coal, which replaced President Trump's National Coal Council. No members were appointed, no meetings were held, and the charter was radicalized to focus on implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and matters currently faced by the coal industry, workers, and communities rather than the promotion of America's coal production and electricity generation.<sup>44</sup>
- Depletion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which harmed national security and sent energy prices soaring.

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<sup>40</sup> <https://energycommerce.house.gov/posts/chairs-rodgers-and-carter-announce-legislative-hearing-on-harmful-epa-naaqs-standards>

<sup>41</sup> <https://barr.house.gov/2021/6/rep-barr-graves-and-mcmorris-rodgers-lead-over-60-house-republicans-in-letter-to-president-biden-on-nord-stream-2-waiver>

<sup>42</sup> <https://pfluger.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=2256>

<sup>43</sup> <https://energycommerce.house.gov/events/environment-manufacturing-and-critical-materials-subcommittee-hearing-epa-s-rmp-rule-failures-to-protect-the-american-people-and-american-manufacturing>

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/119/crpt/hrpt185/CRPT-119hrpt185.pdf>

- Energy Conservation Standards, which reduced consumer choice and burdened industry with compliance standards that were not technologically feasible or economically justified.<sup>45</sup>
- Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards, which removed consumer choice and distorted market signals away from reliable transportation methods.<sup>46</sup>

After four years of heavy-handed government intervention, costly mandates, and favoritism toward the unreliable and expensive “green” energy sector, these policies would have delivered a death by a thousand cuts to domestic energy resources if left in place. President Trump and House Republicans are enacting an America First energy agenda, supporting energy production, jumpstarting energy innovation, and unleashing energy dominance.

The RSC knows our nation should be exploring and unleashing our vast reserves of energy and mineral resources. Tapping our domestic energy resources will reduce inflation, promote job creation, and decrease dependence on foreign oil, both at home and for our allies around the world. The Republican reconciliation law codified meaningful reform to oil and gas permitting and leasing, rescinded funding and authority from wasteful IRA programs, rolled back Biden’s increased fees and rates for energy development, and realigned Department of Energy (DOE) programs to improve energy dominance. This budget reconciliation law will increase energy receipts going to states to improve local economies, streamline discovery and production activities for the energy industry, and remove anti-development regulation put in place by the Biden Administration.

President Trump has also issued several Executive Orders to unleash American energy dominance. House Republicans have introduced legislation to codify these critical initiatives, including:

- RSC HEAT Chairman Troy Balderson’s (R-OH) legislation which would codify President Trump’s Executive Order on Protecting American Energy from State Overreach.
- Rep. Buddy Carter’s (R-GA) bill, the National Energy Dominance Council Act, which would advance President Trump’s Executive Order on the National Energy Dominance Council by codifying the council.
- Rep. Mike Ezell’s (R-MS) bill, the Unleash America’s Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources Act, which would codify President Trump’s Executive Order on Unleashing America’s Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources.

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<sup>45</sup> <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/opinion-restoring-america/2920791/republicans-protecting-home-appliances/>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/120-republicans-join-effort-opposing-bidens-de-facto-ev-mandate>

- Rep. Gary Palmer’s (R-AL) bill, the Securing America’s Mineral Supply (SAMS) Act, which would codify President Trump’s Executive Orders on 1) a Federal Strategy To Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals, 2) Addressing the Threat to the Domestic Supply Chain From Reliance on Critical Minerals From Foreign Adversaries and Supporting the Domestic Mining and Processing Industries, 3) Unleashing American Energy, 4) Immediate Measures To Increase American Mineral Production, and 5) Ensuring National Security and Economic Resilience Through Section 232 Actions on Processed Critical Minerals and Derivative Products.
- Rep. Michael Rulli’s (R-OH) bill, the National Coal Council Reestablishment Act, which would codify President Trump’s Executive Order to reestablish the National Coal Council.

Unleashing our domestic energy resources will reduce inflation, promote job creation, and decrease dependence on foreign oil, both at home and for our allies around the world. The RSC Budget increases American energy production, streamlines permitting for energy projects, and repeals the America-last energy policies advanced by the Biden Administration.

The policies enacted under the Biden Administration caused historic inflation for working families, energy producers, and food growers. By funneling billions of taxpayer dollars to inefficient and unreliable “green” energy sources, the Biden Administration used every tool in their toolbelt to advance a radical Green New Deal Agenda. Their policies raised energy costs, killed jobs, and reduced wages, all while funding special interests, distorting marketplaces, and destabilizing the nation’s electric grid. The federal government has no role in using taxpayer dollars to subsidize private sector investments in politically favored energy technologies. A pro-energy independence agenda requires deregulation and pro-growth tax and permitting reform, not economically distortionary federal subsidies.

The Biden Administration discouraged industrial investments in the United States by refusing to invest in and support baseload power plants. By passing de facto bans on new coal power plants, failing to reduce backlogs in the interconnection queue, and rushing the electrification of industries, the nation’s electric grid is in poor shape to meet current energy demand, not just future energy demand.

Our allies abroad are waiting for the United States to unleash American energy production. It is well known the United States produces the cleanest energy, but not the quickest. Permitting reforms, rather than moratoriums, are needed to advance energy policies that bolster our national security posture. The RSC Budget supports policies that decrease the capital costs of producing energy on federal lands, rather than disincentivize energy producers.

As President Trump and his Administration work to overturn these disastrous policies, the RSC Budget supports legislation to prevent these policies from occurring again and restoring sanity to federal regulation, including:

- Rep. Rick Allen's (R-GA) bill, the Don't Mess With My Home Appliances Act, which would prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing any new or amended energy conservation standards for a product that is not technologically feasible and economically justified.
- Rep. Jodey Arrington's (R-TX) bill, the Abundant American Resources Act, which would direct the Directors of BLM and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to complete a study to determine the dollar value of liquid, gaseous, locatable, leasable, and salable minerals presented in each covered jurisdiction.
- Rep. Jodey Arrington's (R-TX) legislation to nullify Biden's Presidential memoranda on the withdrawal of certain areas of the outer Continental Shelf from oil or natural gas leasing.
- Rep. Jodey Arrington's (R-TX) bill, the Continuing Robust and Uninhibited Drilling and Exporting (CRUDE) Act, which would amend the imposition of export licensing requirements or other restrictions on the export of crude oil from the United States for one year under certain commonsense conditions.
- RSC HEAT Chairman Troy Balderson's (R-OH) bill, the GRID Power Act, which would direct FERC to initiate rulemakings and promulgate final regulations to address the inefficiencies and ineffectiveness of existing procedures for processing interconnection requests to ensure that new dispatchable power projects that improve grid reliability and resource adequacy can interconnect to the electric grid quickly, cost-effectively, and reliably. This legislation would also authorize transmission providers to submit proposals to FERC to adjust the interconnection queue of the transmission provider to prioritize new dispatchable power projects that will improve grid reliability and resource adequacy by assigning those projects higher positions in the interconnection queue.
- RSC HEAT Chairman Troy Balderson's (R-OH) bill, the Reliable Power Act, which would require coordination between FERC and any federal agency seeking to finalize a regulation that may affect electric generation necessary for the reliable operation of the bulk-power system.
- Rep. Nick Begich's (R-AK) bill, the SAT Act, which would direct the Secretary of Transportation to authorize the use of unmanned aircraft systems and satellites in inspections of rights-of-way of certain pipeline facilities.
- Rep. Nick Begich's (R-AK) CRA to rescind the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) rule entitled "Central Yukon Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan," which would prohibit energy development on approximately 3.6 million acres of land.

- Rep. Stephanie Bice's (R-OK) bill, the Bureau of Land Management Mineral Spacing Act, which would prohibit oil and gas exploration and production activities conducted on non-federal surface estate from being considered a major federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or from being subject to the National Historic Preservation Act or the Endangered Species Act. The bill would also clarify that these activities require no additional federal action and may commence 30 days after submission of the state permit to the Secretary of the Interior. The bill would also allow the federal government to receive royalties from energy production activities within the drilling or spacing unit and prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from requiring an operator to obtain a federal drilling permit for oil and gas exploration and production activities conducted on non-federal, non-Tribal surface estate under certain conditions.
- Rep. Lauren Boebert's (R-CO) bill, the American Energy Act, which would require the Secretary of the Interior to process an application for a permit to drill or other authorizations or approvals under a valid existing lease, unless a United States federal court vacated such lease, notwithstanding the existence of any pending civil actions affecting the application or related lease. The bill would also prohibit oil and gas lease sales from being vacated and activities on leases awarded in the sale cannot be otherwise limited, delayed, or enjoined unless the court concludes that allowing the development of the challenged lease poses a risk of imminent and substantial environmental harm and there is no other equitable remedy available.
- Rep. Eric Burlison's (R-MO) bill, the Judicial Review Timeline Clarity Act, which would set a deadline of 60 days for entities to file a suit to challenge the issuance of a permit for discharge of dredged or fill material, as well as prohibit the court from vacating, revoking, enjoining, or otherwise limiting the permit or the discharge, unless the court finds that activities authorized under the permit would present an imminent and substantial danger to human health or the environment for which there is no other equitable remedy available under the law.
- Rep. Eric Burlison's (R-MO) bill, the UNPLUG EVs Act, which would eliminate all unobligated funding for the Charging and Fueling Grants program and the National Electric Vehicle Formula program.
- Rep. Eric Burlison's (R-MO) bill, the Reliable Grid Act, which would end overregulation of the power grid to ensure reliable power generation and sound grid capacity by prohibiting the EPA Administrator from enforcing any rules and regulations that restrict power plant operations and impact the electrical grid.
- Rep. Troy Downing's (R-MT) CRA to rescind the BLM rule entitled "Miles City Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment," which would have made approximately 1.7 million acres of land unavailable for coal leasing.
- Rep. Julie Fedorchak's (R-ND) CRA to rescind the BLM rule entitled "North Dakota Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan," which

would have made more than 4 million acres of land unavailable for coal leasing and blocked oil and gas development on approximately 213,000 acres.

- Rep. Julie Fedorchak's (R-ND) bill, the Promoting Cross-border Energy Infrastructure Act, which would streamline the permitting process for cross-border oil, gas, and electricity projects by allocating authority between the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Department of Energy.
- Rep. Julie Fedorchak's (R-ND) bill, the Baseload Reliability Protection Act, which would prohibit the retirement of baseload electric generating units in areas categorized by NERC as at elevated risk or high risk of electricity supply shortfalls.
- RSC Article I Task Force Chair Harriet Hageman's (R-WY) bill, the Protecting Agricultural Spaces Through Effective Ranching Strategies (PASTURES) Act, which would prohibit the Departments of Agriculture and Interior from imposing a penalty on an owner of livestock for grazing on covered lands that do not have a fence to prevent grazing.
- RSC Article I Task Force Chair Harriet Hageman's (R-WY) bill, the Small Projects Expedited Execution and Delivery (SPEED) Act, which would allow more projects with limited federal assistance to bypass burdensome and costly environmental reviews.
- RSC Article I Task Force Chair Harriet Hageman's (R-WY) bill to exempt the issuing, granting, or renewing of a permit, lease, easement, or right away for the exploration, location, development, production, or extraction of oil, gas, coal, or a critical mineral from requirements under NEPA.
- RSC Article I Task Force Chair Harriet Hageman's (R-WY) bill, the Combating Obstruction Against Leasing (COAL) Act, which requires BLM to process certain applications to lease coal mineral estates owned by the federal government in order to develop coal and requires BLM to grant any additional approvals required for mining activities to commence in already awarded coal leases.
- Rep. Clay Higgins' (R-LA) bill, the Federal Lands and Waters Leasing Transparency Act, which would prevent court orders from delaying the issuance of onshore oil and gas leases unless the lease violates federal law, require the Department of the Interior (DOI) to provide detailed reports to bidders if their bids are rejected, and ensure civil actions that challenge offshore lease sales do not invalidate the leases or delay related approvals and applications.
- Rep. Erin Houchin's (R-IN) bill, the Affordable HOMES Act, which would remove the Department of Energy's authority to regulate manufactured housing energy efficiency standards.
- Rep. Richard Hudson's (R-NC) bill, the Transparency and Honesty in Energy Regulations Act, which would prohibit the federal government from using social cost of greenhouse gas (GHG) metrics in the rulemaking process and require a report to Congress within 120 days of enactment describing the number of proposed and

final rulemakings, guidance documents, and agency actions that, since January 2009, have used the social cost of GHG as part of any cost-benefit analysis.

- Rep. Nick Langworthy's (R-NY) bill, the Energy Choice Act, which would prohibit states or local governments from prohibiting the connection, reconnection, modification, installation, or expansion of an energy service based on the energy source.
- Rep. Laurel Lee's (R-FL) bill, the Cutting LNG Bunkering Red Tape Act, which would codify a Trump-era Department of Energy (DOE) order clarifying that ship-to-ship transfers of liquefied natural gas (LNG) used as marine fuel, commonly known as LNG bunkering, are not considered exports under Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act unless conducted in foreign waters.
- Rep. Tom McClintock's (R-CA) bill, the Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act, which would require regular use of best science to delist and list animals under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Rep. Troy Nehls' (R-TX) bill, the Stop California from Advancing Regulatory Burden (CARB) Act, which would repeal California's Clean Air Act waiver exemption and prevent other states from automatically adopting California's emissions standards.
- RSC Chairman August Pfluger's (R-TX) bill, the Protecting American Energy Production Act, which would prohibit a Presidential moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing unless authorized by Congress.
- RSC Chairman August Pfluger's (R-TX) bill, the Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act, which would expedite and increase American natural gas exports by removing duplicative approval requirements.
- RSC Chairman August Pfluger's (R-TX) bill, the LIZARD Act, which would reverse the Biden Administration's efforts to trample on the livelihoods of America's energy and agricultural producers by removing the dunes sagebrush lizard from the threatened and endangered species list.
- Rep. Bruce Westerman's (R-AR) bill, the Fix Our Forests Act, which would implement critical reforms to streamline permitting processes for forest management and timber harvesting projects.
- Rep. Bruce Westerman's (R-AR) bill, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act, which would shorten litigation and permitting timelines.



## National Security

### **Securing America's Borders and Protecting the Homeland**

The RSC Budget recognizes that U.S. immigration policy should primarily serve the interests of American citizens, families, and workers. It embraces these principles:

- Immigration policies should protect our national security by protecting the American people from terrorism, cartels, and other threats to their safety.
- Immigration policies should prioritize American workers, help grow our middle class, raise wages, and enhance economic opportunity for all lawful residents.
- Immigration policies should respect the rule of law, along with immigrants that honor our legal immigration processes, rather than incentivize law breaking.
- Immigration policies should aim to assimilate legal immigrants into the American family so they too can take pride in our values, history, and heritage.

The Biden Administration embraced the opposite: an illegal, open-borders agenda that created the worst border crisis in U.S. history. In doing so, they compromised the sovereignty of our nation and blatantly ignored the executive branch's duty to maintain operational control of the border. These policies had disastrous impacts on the American people.

Thankfully, President Trump has completely reoriented U.S. immigration policy to protect the American people, despite inheriting a complex border situation characterized by insufficient enforcement mechanisms and inadequate security infrastructure. Upon taking office, the Trump Administration moved swiftly to implement decisive border security measures by immediately sealing the border, restarting immigration enforcement, and ensuring that the brave men and women of the Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) know the President has their back.

The contrast in border security approaches has yielded measurable results. Border Patrol agents are now reporting record-setting low encounter numbers at the southern border, indicating that enhanced security measures are effectively deterring illegal immigration. Under the Biden Administration, approximately 10,000 unvetted migrants were illegally entering the U.S. at the southern border *every day*.<sup>47</sup> After just six months of President Trump's leadership, border crossings in the south were down to an average of 148 per day—lower than the average rate of 152 apprehensions per hour under Biden.<sup>48</sup> While this

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<sup>47</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/07/extraordinary-president-trump-drives-illegal-border-crossings-to-a-new-historic-low/>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/08/01/history-made-again-trump-administration-crushes-border-records-july>

progress is encouraging, the Administration recognizes that continued vigilance and sustained efforts remain essential to maintaining these gains. Illegal aliens are currently deterred from entering the United States, but we must continue to make progress. The Republican Study Committee fully supports President Trump's efforts on the border.

RSC Members got to work at the start of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress to ensure the 2025 reconciliation law included a generational investment in border security and immigration enforcement. This allowed President Trump to continue his work securing the border. The bill delivered historic resources to secure the border, enforce the law, and course-correct the Biden Administration's disastrous border and immigration policies.

Central to the new border security framework is the completion of comprehensive border wall construction, a long-time priority for RSC Members. The Republican reconciliation law prioritizes the installation and improvement of multiple barrier systems, including primary barriers along major crossing points, waterborne barriers for areas near rivers and other water sources, and secondary barriers that provide additional layers of security.

Beyond the physical structures themselves, the Republican reconciliation legislation emphasizes the integration of advanced detection and monitoring technologies. This includes the deployment of sophisticated camera systems, enhanced lighting infrastructure, and cutting-edge sensor networks that provide real-time intelligence to border security personnel. The technological component also encompasses comprehensive detection systems that work in concert with physical barriers to create a multi-layered security approach. Supporting this infrastructure development is a significant investment in access road construction and ground preparation activities. These improvements ensure that Border Patrol agents can effectively patrol and monitor border areas, providing the mobility and positioning necessary for successful interdiction operations.

Recognizing that effective border security depends on having sufficient qualified personnel, the 2025 reconciliation law substantially expands the workforce dedicated to immigration enforcement. The legislation provides for the hiring and training of additional Border Patrol agents, expanding the field presence along critical border sectors. Similarly, it supports the recruitment of additional officers to manage ports of entry, ensuring that legal immigration processes remain efficient while maintaining security standards. The legislation also provides for the strategic rehiring of experienced personnel through annuitant programs, allowing the agencies to leverage the expertise of former agents and officers. To attract and retain qualified personnel in these demanding roles, the reconciliation law establishes comprehensive incentive programs. These include recruitment bonuses designed to attract new talent, performance awards that recognize exceptional service, and retention bonuses that encourage experienced personnel to continue their careers in border security.

Understanding that effective border security requires coordination across all levels of government, the Republican reconciliation law significantly strengthens partnerships with state, local, and tribal authorities. The bill enhances funding for the Operation Stonegarden Grant Program, enabling better coordination between federal agencies and local law enforcement in border regions. It also establishes an innovative State Border Security Reinforcement Fund, which provides substantial resources directly to eligible states and local government units. This program recognizes that border states often bear disproportionate costs related to illegal immigration and provides them with federal support to address these challenges. Importantly, the program also addresses the practical challenges faced by local communities by providing resources for the appropriate relocation of individuals who entered the country illegally, ensuring small communities are not overwhelmed by sudden population increases.

The Republican reconciliation law substantially enhances the capacity of ICE to carry out its core mission of interior enforcement and removal operations. This includes comprehensive support for the transportation logistics of removing individuals ordered to leave the country, ensuring that enforcement decisions are implemented effectively. A critical component of enhanced enforcement is the expansion of background check capabilities, ensuring that comprehensive vetting occurs for all individuals seeking to enter or remain in the U.S. This enhanced screening process strengthens national security and public safety by identifying potential security risks before they can threaten American communities. The legislation places particular emphasis on the expedited removal of individuals who have committed crimes while in the U.S. illegally. This ensures that law enforcement resources focus on those who pose the greatest risk to public safety while maintaining the integrity of the immigration system.

Supporting these expanded operations is significant investment in ICE personnel training and facility upgrades. Enhanced training ensures that enforcement personnel have the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively carry out complex immigration enforcement activities. Facility improvements support both detention operations and administrative processing, ensuring that the immigration system can handle increased caseloads efficiently.

The RSC Budget strongly supports these border security initiatives, reflecting RSC's commitment to comprehensive immigration reform that prioritizes national security and American citizens. The success of these measures, as evidenced by reduced border encounters, demonstrates that decisive action and adequate resources can produce meaningful results in border security. However, sustained commitment and continued vigilance remain essential to building upon these achievements and ensuring that America's borders remain secure for future generations.

The RSC Budget supports the following bills and policies:

- Rep. Brian Babin's (R-TX) bill, the Birthright Citizenship Act, would modify birthright citizenship to ensure it only applies to children born in the U.S. that have at least one parent who is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
- Rep. Juan Ciscomani's (R-AZ) bill, the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act, which would create new criminal offenses for operating a vehicle within 100 miles of the southern border while fleeing Border Patrol agents, or any law enforcement officer assisting the U.S. Border Patrol.
- Rep. Mike Collins' (R-GA) bill, the Laken Riley Act, which amends federal law to require Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to issue detainers and take custody of illegal aliens who commit theft-related crimes, such as shoplifting, and allows state attorneys general to sue the Secretary of Homeland Security for injunctive relief if immigration actions such as parole, violation of detention requirements, or other policy failures harm that state or its citizens. This bill was signed into law on January 29, 2025.
- Rep. Jeff Crank's (R-CO) bill, the BLOC Act, which would prohibit the Department of Transportation from funding infrastructure projects in sanctuary cities and counties that do not give a 48-hour warning to ICE ahead of the release of an illegal immigrant.
- Rep. Troy Downing's (R-MT) bill, the Safeguarding American Property Act, which would expand the Laken Riley Act's mandatory detention requirements to include the property crimes of arson, trespassing, and vandalism.
- Rep. Brad Finstad's (R-MN) bill, the Save SBA from Sanctuary Cities Act, which would relocate SBA offices from sanctuary cities and jurisdictions to non-sanctuary municipalities to make sure these federal resources benefit American small businesses and communities.
- Rep. Brandon Gill's (R-TX) bill, the REMAIN in Mexico Act, which would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to reinstate the Migrant Protection Protocol in accordance with 2019 Homeland Security documentation titled "Policy Guidance for Implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols."<sup>49</sup>
- Rep. Clay Higgins' (R-LA) bill, the District of Columbia Federal Immigration Compliance Act, which would require D.C. to comply with and enforce DHS and ICE detainer requests, ending the D.C. Council's sanctuary policies blocking D.C. employees from providing an individual's immigration status.
- Rep. Ronny Jackson's (R-TX) bill, the Reimbursing Border Communities Act, which would direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to certain border communities.

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<sup>49</sup> <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/policy-guidance-implementation-migrant-protection-protocols>

- Rep. Brad Knott's (R-NC) bill, the Tren de Aragua Border Security Threat Assessment Act, which would require a homeland security border threat assessment on Tren de Aragua.
- Rep. Nicole Malliotakis's (R-NY) bill, the Crime Doesn't Fly Act, which would prohibit the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) from accepting warrants for the arrest or deportation of an illegal alien as valid proof of identification at aviation security checkpoints.
- Rep. Addison McDowell's (R-NC) bill, the ALCATRAZ Act, which would transfer remaining funding from the Shelter and Services Program to a new program explicitly designed to reimburse states and localities for operating migrant detention facilities and require DHS to work with states and localities to identify future sites for migrant detention centers.
- Rep. John McGuire's (R-VA) bill, the Make the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Act, which would codify President Trump's Executive Order, "Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful."<sup>50</sup>
- Rep. Barry Moore's (R-AL) bill, the Jeremy and Angel Seay and Sergeant Brandon Mendoza Protect Our Communities from DUIs Act, which would make driving while intoxicated or impaired a deportable offense for illegal aliens and grounds to bar them from entering the country.
- Rep. Tim Moore's (R-NC) bill, the Border Operations Service Medal Act, which would authorize the issuance of a Border Operations Service Medal to servicemembers and federal personnel who served in designated border operations.
- Rep. Tim Moore's (R-NC) bill, the Securing Our Border Act, which would reprogram all remaining unobligated funds from the IRS enforcement account to border enforcement.
- RSC Chairman August Pfluger's (R-TX) bill, which would repeal the D.C. Council's Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022, which enabled noncitizens to register to vote, and prevents individuals who are not U.S. citizens from voting in elections in D.C.
- Rep. David Rouzer's (R-NC) bill, the Asylum Accountability Act, which would improve the integrity of the U.S. asylum system by increasing penalties for individuals who fail to appeal for their immigration court hearing.
- Rep. Jefferson Shreve's (R-IN) bill, the Build the Wall Act, which would establish the "Southern Border Wall Construction Fund" and require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to use any unobligated COVID State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to construct and maintain the border wall.
- Rep. Pete Stauber's (R-MN) bill, the Northern Border Security and Staffing Reform Act, which would amend the Northern Border Security Review Act and require an updated northern border threat analysis.

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<sup>50</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/making-the-district-of-columbia-safe-and-beautiful/>

- Rep. Elise Stefanik’s (R-NY) bill, the District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act, which would end cashless bail in Washington, D.C.
- Rep. Greg Steube’s (R-FL) bill, the DEFENSE Act, which would extend temporary authority to state and local police officers to use approved counter-unmanned aircraft systems technology.
- RSC Budget Task Force Chair Beth Van Duyne’s (R-TX) bill, the No Congressional Funds for Sanctuary Cities Act, which would prohibit cities with sanctuary policies that obstruct immigration enforcement from receiving federally appropriated community project funds (earmarks).
- RSC Budget Task Force Chair Beth Van Duyne’s (R-TX) bill, the Border Wall Waste Accountability Act, which would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report to Congress on the total cost of unused construction materials that were obtained for construction of a U.S.-Mexico border wall during the Biden Administration.
- RSC Budget Task Force Chair Beth Van Duyne’s (R-TX) bill, the American Entrepreneurs First Act, which would prevent Small Business Administration (SBA) assistance from going towards illegal aliens. This would codify actions taken by SBA Administrator Loeffler.<sup>51</sup>

### **Rebuilding the American Arsenal of Freedom**

For too long, the national defense of the United States languished under the failed leadership of the Obama and Biden Administrations, leaving our military weakened and our nation exposed. Ideological agendas, severe budget cuts, and reckless disengagement from global threats eroded America’s military dominance, emboldening adversaries like Communist China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and other rogue states. Under their watch, the U.S. military declined from the world’s unrivaled superpower to a force struggling with readiness and relevance.

During President Obama’s tenure, defense spending was slashed, gutting military modernization and forcing the Army to shrink to its smallest size since World War II. The Obama Administration’s focus on political correctness, such as mandating social experiments in military training, diverted resources from combat readiness. The Obama Administration’s so-called “pivot to Asia” was poorly executed and strategically incoherent—neglecting urgent threats in other regions under the illusion of a long-term rebalancing. This half-measure approach created dangerous vacuums: Russia seized Crimea in 2014 with barely a response, and Iran accelerated its nuclear program with minimal resistance or accountability. Aging equipment, like the Navy’s overstretched carrier fleet, and depleted

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<sup>51</sup> <https://www.sba.gov/article/2025/03/06/administrator-loeffler-announces-sba-reforms-put-american-citizens-first>

munitions stockpiles left our forces unprepared, while the defense industrial base struggled to sustain production. Adversaries capitalized on this weakness and China expanded its naval fleet to surpass ours in size while Russia modernized its nuclear arsenal.

The Biden Administration deepened this crisis. Despite escalating global threats, President Biden's policies prioritized climate initiatives over military readiness, diverting \$20 billion in defense funds to "green" programs from 2022 to 2024. Critical programs like the F-35 fighter jet and Virginia-class submarine faced delays due to underfunding and supply chain neglect. The Biden Administration's abrupt Afghanistan withdrawal in 2021, abandoning \$7 billion in equipment and allies, signaled weakness. This emboldened China's aggression in the South China Sea and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The indecision and misallocation of resources strained alliances like NATO, where U.S. leadership faltered, and diminished our ability to deter adversaries.

The first Trump Administration reversed the damage done under the Obama Administration by delivering a historic restoration of American military power. President Trump secured \$2.1 trillion in defense funding from 2017-2021, reversing years of decline. He revitalized the warrior ethos by prioritizing combat readiness over bureaucracy, streamlining Pentagon operations. The first Trump Administration fully funded the \$100 billion Columbia-class submarine program to modernize the nuclear triad, restocked 155mm artillery shells critical for deterrence, and launched the Space Force to secure America's dominance in a new domain. Bold reforms to acquisition processes cut costs and delays, while investments in shipbuilding revitalized the defense industrial base. Through an America First strategy, President Trump restored the U.S. military as the world's most lethal force, deterring aggression and strengthening alliances like the Abraham Accords.

Today, President Trump is continuing this legacy in his second term with steadfast resolve, undoing the failures from the Biden Administration and rebuilding the lethal edge America's military requires to confront rising global threats. The Republican Study Committee Budget commits to rebuilding the arsenal of freedom and to strengthening every domain—land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace. The RSC Budget supports funding for next-generation systems like the B-21 Raider bomber and hypersonic missiles, accelerated shipbuilding to counter China's naval edge, and enhanced cyber defenses against state-sponsored attacks. The Budget renews the warrior ethos, enforces rigorous standards, and equips our troops to deter or defeat any adversary.

Congressional Republicans have taken the first steps to reaching these goals in the 2025 reconciliation law, which included provisions to improve quality of life for troops, expand shipbuilding capacity, enhance America's missile defense, and accelerate delivery of advanced and cost-effective weapons systems. Republicans' historic reconciliation law also strengthens U.S. nuclear deterrence, modernizes defense IT and cybersecurity infrastructure, and increases resources for United States Indo-Pacific Command. It also



includes robust oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure that every dollar is spent strategically in defense of the nation. With this renewed investment, the United States will maintain unmatched military dominance and defend freedom both at home and abroad.

The threats are undeniable: China's 400-ship navy and hypersonic arsenal, Russia's nuclear saber-rattling, and Iran's ballistic missile advancements demand an uncompromising response. This is a call to action to stand with our warfighters, rebuild what was lost under the Obama and Biden Administrations, and signal to the world that America will never waver.

National defense is a sacred duty, not a political game. Under the RSC Budget, the United States will lead with unmatched strength, protect our allies, and secure liberty for generations. We will honor every servicemember's oath, uphold the America First vision, and ensure the arsenal of freedom remains the world's unrivaled guardian of peace.

### **Restoring the Warrior Ethos and Military Readiness**

The foundation of American military supremacy rests on the unwavering commitment to excellence, meritocracy, and the warrior ethos that has defined the U.S. armed forces throughout history. To restore this sacred tradition, we must eliminate the politicization that has infected our ranks and return to a culture of accountability where merit, not ideology, determines advancement and recognition. This requires reinforcing rigorous standards and discipline across all branches, ensuring that our service members are judged solely on their ability to fight for, lead, and defend our nation.

Military training must refocus on lethality and high-end combat scenarios to prepare our forces for major-power conflicts. Today's threats demand force-on-force readiness and unit cohesion that can only be achieved through intensive, realistic training exercises. This comprehensive approach to combat preparation will ensure our warfighters maintain the tactical edge necessary to defeat peer and near-peer adversaries in any domain.

Supporting our service members extends beyond the battlefield to their families and personal welfare, recognizing that military readiness depends on stable, well-supported personnel. We must invest in military housing, accessible childcare, and deployment stability programs that retain our most talented service members and their families. When we adequately resource personnel and family readiness, we create an environment where our best and brightest choose to continue serving, strengthening our ranks with experienced leaders who understand both the demands of military service and the sacrifices required to maintain freedom.

## **Revitalizing the Defense Industrial Base**

America's defense industrial base represents the backbone of our military superiority, but years of neglect have left critical vulnerabilities that our adversaries have been quick to exploit. Rebuilding our munitions stockpile is imperative to U.S. national security, requiring the immediate expansion of domestic production capabilities for precision-guided munitions and conventional weapons systems to address critical shortfalls.

The dangerous reliance on adversarial nations for critical components, including semiconductors, rare earth elements, and other essential inputs, is an unacceptable national security risk that must be terminated through comprehensive reshoring initiatives. By bringing these vital supply chains back to American soil, we not only secure our defense capabilities but also create high-paying manufacturing jobs and strengthen our economic independence. This strategic reshoring effort will ensure that China and other hostile nations cannot hold American defense capabilities hostage through supply chain manipulation.

Bureaucratic inefficiency has plagued defense procurement for too long, creating costly delays and budget overruns that weaken our military while wasting taxpayer dollars. Streamlining procurement processes and empowering program managers with the authority to deliver capabilities faster and under budget will revolutionize how the United States develops and deploys military technology. These acquisition reforms will eliminate unnecessary red tape while maintaining rigorous oversight, ensuring our warfighters receive the most advanced systems in the world without the bureaucratic delays that have characterized past administrations.

The Defense Production Act authorizes powerful tools for strategic mobilization that must be fully activated to address current and future threats. Through Title III authorities, the RSC Budget supports expanding U.S. production of weapons, materials, and critical technologies while supporting small and mid-sized defense manufacturers in key sectors. Building surge capacity for future peer conflicts or prolonged crises requires immediate investment in manufacturing infrastructure, with particular attention to Indo-Pacific threat scenarios and the specific vulnerabilities our adversaries might exploit during extended conflicts.

## **Modernizing Strategic Deterrence**

The nuclear triad remains America's ultimate guarantor of security, demanding full modernization to maintain credible deterrence against increasingly sophisticated adversaries. The RSC Budget supports funding for the modernization of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, ballistic missile submarines, and strategic bombers to strengthen our strategic deterrents. This will ensure each leg of the triad can penetrate

advanced enemy defenses and deliver devastating retaliation if necessary. This comprehensive nuclear modernization sends an unmistakable message to potential adversaries that any attack on American interests will result in swift and severe consequences.

Expanding missile defense capabilities for the homeland is a critical investment to protect American lives and infrastructure from rogue-state attacks and emerging hypersonic threats. Next-generation interceptors integrated with space-based sensors will create a layered defense system capable of defeating complex attack scenarios, including those involving multiple warheads and advanced countermeasures. This robust homeland defense network will protect American cities and critical infrastructure while providing our leaders with additional options in the event of an international crisis.

The emerging domains of space and cyberspace demand substantial investment in both offensive and defensive capabilities to secure America's technological advantages. Our adversaries have made significant investments in space-based weapons and cyber warfare capabilities, requiring immediate action to maintain American superiority in these critical domains. The RSC Budget supports investment in advanced space defense systems and sophisticated cyber warfare tools to ensure the United States maintains the high ground in the conflicts of the future while protecting the digital infrastructure that powers our modern economy and military.

### **Naval Power and Maritime Superiority**

America's naval dominance has guaranteed freedom of navigation and global trade for decades, yet China's rapid naval expansion threatens this historic advantage and demands an immediate response. The RSC Budget supports rebuilding the U.S. Navy fleet to meet the 355-ship goal. This will require accelerated shipbuilding programs focused on attack submarines and advanced surface combatants capable of operating in contested environments. This naval expansion will ensure American forces can project power globally while maintaining the maritime superiority essential for protecting our allies and deterring aggression in critical sea lanes.

Securing sea lines of communication is a fundamental requirement for American global leadership, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region where China continues its aggressive expansion. Prioritizing Indo-Pacific basing, logistics networks, and forward presence capabilities will enable rapid response to Chinese aggression while reassuring regional allies of America's commitment to their security. Strategic investments in maritime infrastructure will create the foundation for sustained operations in the world's most critical waterways.

The future of naval warfare increasingly depends on unmanned maritime systems that can operate in high-threat environments where manned vessels face unacceptable risks. Accelerating development of autonomous vessels for reconnaissance, strike, and logistics missions will multiply our naval capabilities while reducing the risk to American personnel. These cutting-edge systems will provide commanders with unprecedented flexibility and reach, enabling sustained operations in contested areas where traditional naval forces might be vulnerable to advanced enemy weapons systems.

### **Air Dominance and the Future Force**

American air superiority requires continued investment in next-generation platforms that maintain our technological edge over increasingly sophisticated adversaries. Procuring additional F-35s, B-21 bombers, and accelerating sixth-generation fighter development ensures U.S. pilots will dominate the skies for decades to come. These aircraft incorporate stealth technology, advanced sensors, and precision weapons that provide overwhelming advantages in both air-to-air and air-to-ground combat scenarios.

Robust aerial refueling and strategic mobility capabilities are essential to enabling rapid deployment of American forces anywhere in the world. Modernizing our tanker fleets and strategic airlift aircraft provides the logistical backbone necessary for sustained operations in distant theaters, ensuring American forces can arrive quickly with the supplies and equipment needed for immediate combat effectiveness. This enhanced mobility capacity will prove crucial in future conflicts where speed of deployment may determine the outcome of critical battles and enable global power projection.

The integration of artificial intelligence and autonomous systems in combat aviation represents the next revolution in military affairs, promising to multiply the effectiveness of manned aircraft while reducing risks to American pilots. The RSC Budget supports investment in loyal wingman drones and AI-enabled targeting systems to create manned-unmanned teams capable of overwhelming enemy defenses through coordinated attacks and advanced electronic warfare. These technological innovations will ensure American forces maintain their decisive advantages even as potential adversaries develop more sophisticated air defense systems.

### **Regional Posture and Global Deterrence**

Communist China's growing military capabilities and aggressive behavior in the Indo-Pacific region are a serious long-term threat to American interests and global stability. Countering this challenge requires strengthening deterrence through rotational force deployments, enhanced regional partnerships, and integrated training exercises that demonstrate American resolve and capability. This comprehensive approach to Indo-Pacific

security will reassure allies while sending clear signals to Beijing that aggressive actions will meet overwhelming American resistance.

Russian aggression in Eastern Europe threatens the foundation of the post-World War II international order and demands sustained American support for our NATO allies. Supporting frontline NATO states through defense cooperation and deterrent capabilities will prevent Russian expansion while strengthening the alliance bonds that have guaranteed European security for over seven decades. These investments in European security serve American interests by maintaining the stability that enables global trade and democratic governance.

Reorienting American military posture toward strategic competition with major powers requires fundamental changes in how we deploy forces and allocate resources globally. Refocusing on major power conflict scenarios and rapid response capabilities will ensure American forces are positioned to address the most serious threats while maintaining the flexibility to respond to emerging crises. This strategic reorientation reflects the reality that America's most dangerous adversaries are sophisticated nation-states with advanced military capabilities and global ambitions.

The RSC Budget supports the following bills and policies:

- Rep. Jodey Arrington's (R-TX) bill, the Protecting Military Installations and Ranges Act, which would empower the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CIFIUS) to review real estate investments in the U.S. by entities affiliated with China, Russia, Iran, or North Korea. It would apply to real estate purchases located within 100 miles of a military installation or 50 miles of a military training route, special use airspace, controlled firing area, or military operations area.
- Rep. Don Bacon's (R-NE) bill, the Fighter Force Preservation and Recapitalization Act, which would preserve U.S. Air Force fighter force structure and prioritize the recapitalization of the 39 service-retained, combat-coded fighter squadrons available to the Secretary of Defense to respond globally to world events across the Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve fighter fleets.
- Rep. Pat Fallon's (R-TX) bill, the Securing America's Federal Equipment (SAFE) in Supply Chains Act, which would protect America's cybersecurity by ensuring the Department of Defense does not unintentionally acquire counterfeit electronics or those from unauthorized sellers.
- Rep. Pat Fallon's (R-TX) bill, the Protecting AI and Cloud Competition in Defense Act, which would ensure that the Department of Defense's contracting for artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud computing tools prioritizes resiliency and competition. The bill would help spur competition and innovation with regards to the contract

bidding process, allowing the U.S. to stay ahead of competitors and ensuring related data is kept secure.

- Rep. Tony Gonzales' (R-TX) bill, the UNMASK Act, which would prohibit the federal government from establishing, implementing, or enforcing any federal requirement for members of the Armed Forces to wear a face mask while in uniform when not directly related to their duties.
- Rep. Pat Harrigan's (R-NC) bill, the AMERICANS Act, which would reinstate over 8,400 service members who were wrongfully discharged because of their COVID-19 vaccination status, clear their records, restore their benefits, and ensure no future administration can weaponize mandates against our armed forces. The bill would also prohibit the Department of Defense from issuing any COVID-19 vaccine mandate as a replacement for the rescinded vaccine mandate of August 24, 2021, unless the mandate is expressly authorized by Congress.
- Rep. Pat Harrigan's (R-NC) bill, the Military Installation Retail Security Act, which would ban companies owned or controlled by China, Russia, Iran, or North Korea from operating physical storefronts on U.S. military installations. This bill would also terminate existing contracts with companies that lied about foreign ownership and require national security reviews of existing on-base retailers with foreign ties.
- Rep. Bill Huizenga's (R-MI) bill which would amend the Arms Export Control Act to modify certain provisions relating to AUKUS defense trade cooperation.
- Rep. Chip Roy's (R-TX) bill, the Restoring Military Focus Act, which would permanently eliminate the Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Advisors for Diversity and Inclusion positions at the Department of Defense, which were established under Section 913 of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
- Rep. Greg Steube's (R-FL) bill, the Eliminate DEI in the Military Act, which would eliminate all DEI activities in trainings, programs, educational materials and, with respect to a position of employment or an appointment in the armed forces, service academies, and Department of Defense.

### **Reorienting Foreign Assistance for Strategic Transformation**

The United States stands at a defining moment in a world of unrelenting global rivalry, where every action must advance the interests of the American people. For decades, U.S. foreign assistance has been adrift, captured by ideological crusades that eroded influence and squandered resources. Under prior administrations, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and State Department became platforms for global activism, pushing climate dogma, radical social policies, and unaccountable multilateralism, while neglecting national security and prosperity. Over \$715 billion in inflation-adjusted spending produced meager results: development goals languished, instability grew, and anti-American sentiment festered. Sub-Saharan Africa, which has received \$165 billion in

assistance from the U.S. since 1991, aligned with U.S. votes at the UN only 29 percent of the time in 2023. In the Middle East and North Africa, after the U.S. provided \$89 billion in aid, all countries but Morocco felt more favorably about China than the United States. In Gaza and the West Bank, \$9.3 billion in U.S. aid often enriched adversaries' allies instead, breeding resentment rather than goodwill. A sprawling "non-governmental organization (NGO) industrial complex" thrived on taxpayer funds, enriching elites while those meant to benefit fell further behind.<sup>52</sup>

This era of strategic drift ends now. As Secretary of State Marco Rubio has articulated, foreign assistance is not charity—it is statecraft, an investment in America's strength, security, and global leadership. The Trump Administration has made a bold shift to cease USAID implementing foreign assistance. The State Department will now oversee programs aligned with an America First agenda, ensuring every dollar spent does not serve as a handout, but as a symbol of partnership rooted in mutual prosperity and accountability. Aid to trade and empowerment over dependence is the end goal. The days of propping up failing regimes with endless aid are over. Assistance must be targeted, time-limited, and tied to recipients' commitment to good governance, free markets, and shared values.

This transformation demands sweeping reform. Foreign assistance must end funding for regimes aligned with adversaries like China, Russia, or Iran, and withdraw support from international organizations peddling anti-American agendas. Programs promoting divisive ideologies such as climate extremism, radical gender policies, or global identity mandates will give way to diplomacy focused on security and economic growth. The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), with its results-driven model of incentivizing democratic principles and economic reform, should lead the way by absorbing redundant programs and modernizing the outdated Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to confront today's threats.

Thanks to President Trump's leadership, our adversaries will face resolute opposition to their malign influence. China's exploitative Belt and Road Initiative must be countered with transparent, investment-based alternatives that bolster sovereignty. Iran's malign reach, fueled by proxies, should continue to be curtailed through sanctions, isolation, and support for our regional allies. Russia's propaganda and covert operations must be met with robust pushback, using every diplomatic, economic, and technological tool available to expose their lies, counter their influence, and defend free societies. At the United Nations, funding should be withheld from bodies dominated by authoritarian regimes, with U.S. participation contingent on reforms aligning with American principles.

Strategic alliances are being revitalized. Expanding the Abraham Accords will unite partners against Iranian aggression, fostering Middle East stability. In the Indo-Pacific, trade and security ties with India, Taiwan, Japan, and others will counter Chinese expansionism.

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<sup>52</sup> <https://statedept.substack.com/p/making-foreign-aid-great-again>



A reformed State Department, purged of bureaucratic bloat and socialist activism, will empower diplomats to serve in high-priority regions like Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe, equipped with modern tools for agile engagement.

These policies will renew American leadership, restore trust with taxpayers, project strength to allies, and deliver clarity to adversaries. By prioritizing aid to trade, opportunity over dependency, and investment over assistance, the United States will forge partnerships that drive prosperity, security, and peace. Foreign assistance, wielded with precision, will amplify America's interests, exporting the ideals of liberty and sovereignty to those wishing to be free of tyranny.

### **Ensuring Foreign Assistance Serves U.S. National Interests**

The United States stands at a crossroads where the outdated Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 must give way to a modernized framework that addresses contemporary threats and serves American interests above all else. For over six decades, this antiquated legislation has enabled the proliferation of small, redundant, and legacy assistance programs established during the Cold War that no longer serve our strategic objectives. This complex web of overlapping bureaucracies only results in inefficiency, waste, and mission drift that undermines American influence while helping our adversaries.

The RSC Budget calls for ending the era of scattered, uncoordinated aid programs by establishing four focused pillars designed to maximize American strategic advantage: political assistance, security assistance, humanitarian assistance, and development assistance. This consolidated approach will eliminate bureaucratic redundancy while ensuring every dollar serves a clear purpose in advancing U.S. interests.

**Political assistance** must be centralized under State Department leadership, incorporating programs like the Economic Support Fund and critical aid to strategic partners including Israel, Egypt, and Jordan. This pillar focuses exclusively on nations that demonstrate genuine alignment with American values and strategic objectives, ending the practice of subsidizing regimes that oppose our interests or align themselves with adversaries like China, Russia, and Iran. American taxpayers will no longer fund international organizations that promote anti-American agendas, lack accountability, or serve as platforms for authoritarian actors.

**Security assistance** requires the dual leadership of the State and Defense Departments to ensure seamless coordination between diplomatic and military objectives. The RSC Budget consolidates programs including the International Military Education and Training (IMET), Foreign Military Financing (FMF), and Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) under unified strategic direction. By eliminating the institutional silos that have plagued interagency cooperation, America can

deliver comprehensive security partnerships that strengthen allies while deterring adversaries.

**Humanitarian assistance** must be guided by strategic priorities rather than fashionable causes, incorporating the former USAID funding streams, food aid programs, and multilateral humanitarian assistance. The RSC Budget ends funding for climate extremism, radical gender ideology, and diversity mandates unrelated to genuine humanitarian needs. Instead of pandering to ideological crusades, humanitarian aid will focus on alleviating genuine suffering while advancing U.S. strategic interests abroad.

**Development assistance** embodies the most transformative pillar, with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) leading a results-driven approach that demands recipient countries adopt policies strengthening the rule of law, economic freedom, and private investment. The MCC's proven model of requiring genuine commitment to free markets and democratic principles would absorb former USAID economic and development programs, creating a streamlined system where eligible countries receive comprehensive compacts while ineligible nations must demonstrate meaningful policy reforms to qualify for assistance.

### **Leveraging Investment to Counter Adversaries**

The RSC Budget refocuses the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) on explicitly countering China, Russia, Iran, and other adversaries rather than promoting the climate policies and ideological agendas that have corrupted its mission. Congress' original support for an adversary-focused mandate must become the operational reality, transforming the DFC from a tool for so-called "social justice" pet projects into a strategic weapon for American economic competition.

Reauthorization of DFC must include a mandate that all investments directly counter China's Belt and Road Initiative debt traps, Russia's energy coercion, and Iran's economic influence networks. Every project, partnership, and dollar must serve the clear purpose of strengthening American allies while weakening our adversaries' economic leverage. The days of using development finance to advance climate dogma or social experiments must end now.

### **Ending the Cycle of Wasteful and Counterproductive Aid**

This comprehensive restructuring confronts the systematic waste that has characterized American foreign assistance for decades. The RSC Budget ensures taxpayer dollars will no longer flow to regimes that openly oppose our values while enriching corrupt elites who

undermine regional stability. Every program, every partnership, and every commitment must advance our strategic objectives or face elimination.

True partnership requires mutual commitment and demonstrable results. Bilateral aid across all four pillars must become conditional on genuine alignment with U.S. priorities and a willingness by recipient nations to shoulder their fair share of regional security burdens. The implementation of rigorous oversight through independent audits, Inspector General reviews, and real-time feedback from U.S. embassies and regional bureaus will end the era of one-way relationships.

### **Confronting Our Adversaries Through Strategic Action**

Communist China's exploitative Belt and Road Initiative is a direct threat to global freedom and this approach to U.S. foreign aid is directly designed to counter it. Through coordinated political, security, and development assistance, America will offer transparent, investment-based alternatives that genuinely empower sovereign nations rather than ensnaring them in debt traps. U.S. support will focus on catalyzing private sector growth while providing nations with the tools to resist Chinese political and economic coercion.

The Iranian regime's malign influence network has thrived on both direct and indirect funding streams that this reformed system will permanently sever. Through coordinated sanctions, enhanced intelligence operations, and diplomatic isolation supported by strategic assistance to regional allies, America will restrain Tehran's reach while dismantling every proxy group, shell organization, and avenue of regime empowerment. Furthermore, the RSC has led the Maximum Pressure Act to codify President Trump's successful maximum pressure campaign on Iran into law and ensure no future administration could reverse this crucial national security policy. The Maximum Pressure Act is the toughest Iran sanctions package proposed by Congress.<sup>53</sup>

Russia's sophisticated influence operations demand an equally sophisticated, multifaceted response. The outdated aid models that fund ineffective NGOs while Moscow spreads disinformation, censorship, and covert operations must be completely overhauled. The RSC Budget expands support for strategic open media, civil society organizations, and technological resilience in frontline states confronting Kremlin influence, while coordinated sanctions, public attribution, and strategic messaging campaigns expose and penalize Russian malign activity wherever it emerges.

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<sup>53</sup> <https://rsc-pfluger.house.gov/media/press-releases/republican-study-committee-launches-enforcing-maximum-pressure-initiative-hold>

## **Rebuilding Strategic Alliances for the Future**

The Abraham Accords represent a blueprint for transforming regional dynamics through our political assistance pillar's support for shared interests and mutual security commitments. By prioritizing aid and engagement with nations deepening their ties with Israel, the U.S. can forge a unified front against Iranian aggression while building lasting stability throughout the Middle East. This expansion of normalization and defense cooperation creates the foundation for sustained peace and prosperity.

In the Indo-Pacific, America's restructured assistance across all four pillars must align with the strategic needs of democratic partners including India, Taiwan, Japan, and Southeast Asian nations resisting Communist China's expansionism. Through enhanced political engagement, robust security partnerships, targeted humanitarian support, and strategic development investments, we will reinforce sovereignty while countering authoritarian pressure across the region.

## **Reforming the State Department for Strategic Success**

The State Department and foreign affairs bureaucracy must abandon the culture of global activism and return to diplomacy driven by American strength and clear national interests. The RSC Budget's proposed four-pillar structure eliminates the redundant special envoys, overlapping initiatives, and institutional silos that have plagued the coordination between agencies. Funding, promotions, and program survival will be directly linked to measurable results in advancing American influence and strategic advantage.

U.S. Foreign Service Officers must be incentivized to serve where America's interests are most at stake and in contested regions throughout Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. Modern security protocols, advanced communications systems, and cutting-edge digital infrastructure enable rapid, effective engagement even in the most volatile environments, supported by clear strategic direction from this framework. The reconstitution of the U.S. Information Agency will centralize public diplomacy, international broadcasting, and counter-information operations under unified command, working seamlessly with political assistance programs to project American values and counter adversary propaganda.

## **A New Era of Strategic Leadership**

This proposal is more than bureaucratic reform. It embodies America's return to principled leadership in global affairs. By wielding foreign assistance as a precision instrument of statecraft rather than a collection of scattered charitable programs and purveyor of radical pet projects, the United States will forge partnerships that genuinely advance prosperity, security, and freedom for all who share our values. The development assistance pillar, with MMC at the forefront, will create pathways from dependency to self-sufficiency, while

political assistance strengthens democratic allies, security assistance deters aggression, and humanitarian assistance serves both moral imperatives and strategic interests. This integrated approach ensures that every taxpayer dollar serves American interests while building a world where freedom and sovereignty can flourish against the forces of authoritarianism and tyranny.

The RSC Budget supports the following bills and priorities:

- Rep. Jodey Arrington's (R-TX) bill, the WHO is Accountable Act, which would prevent future Presidents from rejoining the WHO without any conditions of improvement. This bill builds upon President Trump's executive order removing the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>54</sup>
- Rep. Don Bacon's (R-NE) bill, the Taiwan Representative Office Act, which would direct the Secretary of State to seek to enter into negotiations with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office to rename its office the "Taiwan Representative Office."
- Rep. Andy Barr's (R-KY) bill, Expressing support for the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement, which supports President Trump's actions to remove the U.S. from the Paris Agreement.
- Rep. Michael Baumgartner's (R-WA) bill, the No Paydays for Hostage-Takers Act, which would deny the application of a visa for admission to the United States as a representative to the United Nations for anyone sanctioned under terrorism or weapons of mass destruction proliferation. The bill would also require a report on the prior unfreezing of assets related to Iran.
- Rep. Sheri Biggs' (R-SC) bill, the No Passports for Terrorists and Traffickers Act, which would empower the Secretary of State to revoke or deny U.S. passports to individuals charged with or convicted of terrorism-related crimes, including those providing material support to designated foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs).
- Rep. Tim Burchett's (R-TN) bill, the No Tax Dollars for Terrorists Act, which would require the State Department to create and carry out a strategy aimed at deterring foreign nations and NGOs from offering financial or material aid to the Taliban or other terrorist groups.
- RSC Vice Chairman Ben Cline's (R-VA) bill, the End U.N. Censorship Act, which would prohibit U.S. taxpayer funds from being used to further the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) iVerify initiative.<sup>55</sup>
- Rep. Warren Davidson's (R-OH) bill, the Aid Accountability Act, which would eliminate funding for any federal employee or non-governmental organization

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<sup>54</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/withdrawing-the-united-states-from-the-worldhealth-organization/>

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.undp.org/digital/iverify>

violating the Helms Amendment, which prohibits the use of any U.S. foreign aid to perform or encourage abortion as a method of family planning.

- Rep. Warren Davidson's (R-OH) bill, the United Nations Voting Accountability Act, which would prohibit giving assistance, such as various types of economic support or military training, to countries that shared U.S. positions on less than 50 percent of the recorded votes in the most recent United Nations session. The bill would also allow a country to be exempted from this prohibition if the Department of State determines that the country will no longer oppose U.S. positions due to a fundamental change in the country's leadership and policies.
- Rep. Byron Donalds' (R-FL) bill, the America Supports Taiwan Act, which would (1) reconfirm the U.S. Government's support of an independent Taiwan, even though Chinese coercion and persuasion continues to escalate; (2) direct all federal agencies to use the term "Taiwan" instead of the "Chinese Taipei" nomenclature; and (3) require all federal agencies to update their websites within 14 days after enactment.
- Rep. Neal Dunn's (R-FL) bill, the Ending China's Unfair Advantage Act, which would prohibit American taxpayer dollars from funding the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) until China is no longer designated as a developing nation.
- Rep. Lance Gooden's (R-TX) bill, the No Tax Dollars for the United Nation's Immigration Invasion Act, which would halt State Department contributions to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The bill would also direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a full audit of U.S. funding to these entities and report on how much the U.N. owes taxpayers, the NGOs complicit in administering migrant resettlement services with these funds, and a full review of the State Department's Refugee Travel Loan Program.
- Rep. Abraham Hamadeh's (R-AZ) bill which would require imposing sanctions with respect to the officials, agents, or affiliates of Ansarallah, commonly known as the Houthis, for acts of international terrorism.
- Rep. Bill Huizenga's (R-MI) bill, the Restoring American Freedom Act, which would ban employees at the State Department from silencing the free speech of American citizens by explicitly stating that no taxpayer dollars can be used to unconstitutionally limit the free speech of any American citizen. Additionally, this legislation would stop the federal government from using third party entities to "blacklist" Americans or create censorship tools used against Americans.
- Rep. Ronny Jackson's (R-TX) bill, the Uncovering UNRWA's Terrorist Crimes Act, which would codify the Executive Order signed by President Trump halting all federal funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine

Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).<sup>56</sup> This bill would also authorize a report by the U.S. State Department to disclose all funding provided by the United States to UNRWA during the Biden Administration.

- Rep. Dusty Johnson's (R-SD) bill, the Panama Canal Repurchase Act, which would authorize the purchase of the Panama Canal. President Trump has stated his interest in bringing the canal back under American ownership to improve national and economic security.
- Rep. David Kustoff's (R-TN) bill, the Stop Corrupt Iranian Oligarchs and Entities Act, which would direct the Department of the Treasury, in consultation with the Department of State and Director of National Intelligence, to identify and compile a list of Iranian oligarchs and entities that are ultimately profiting off the Iranian people.
- Rep. Cory Mills' (R-FL) bill, the Embassy Construction Integrity Act, which would block Chinese government-owned companies from building U.S. embassies, strengthen national security and counter Chinese Communist Party (CCP) espionage threats. Congress recently discovered that a Chinese state-owned enterprise was involved in constructing a U.S. embassy in South Asia, a serious security risk. This bill would require the State Department to conduct thorough due diligence and identify the beneficial owners of companies involved in constructing new diplomatic or consular posts.
- Rep. Nathaniel Moran's (R-TX) bill, the No Dollars to Uyghur Forced Labor Act, which would prohibit Department of State contracts with companies that have ties to forced labor in the Xinjian region of China.
- RSC National Security Task Force Chair Zach Nunn's (R-IA) bill, the Maximum Pressure Act, which would impose the toughest sanctions ever on Iran, preventing their ability to fund terror throughout the Middle East.
- RSC National Security Task Force Chair Nunn's (R-IA) bill, the United States-Taiwan Defense Innovation Partnership Act, which would accelerate defense technology collaboration between the United States and Taiwan in response to ongoing aggression from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).
- RSC National Security Task Force Chair Zach Nunn's (R-IA) bill, the Preventing the Escalation of Armed Conflict in Europe (PEACE) Act, which would authorize new financial sanctions targeting foreign banks which support Russia's energy sector or sanctioned Kremlin entities.
- RSC Chairman August Pfluger's (R-TX) bill, the No Iranian Energy Act, which would impose sanctions on the import of natural gas from Iran by the Government of Iraq.

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<sup>56</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/withdrawing-the-united-states-from-and-ending-funding-to-certain-united-nations-organizations-and-reviewing-united-states-support-to-all-international-organizations/>



- Rep. Chip Roy's (R-TX) bill, the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act, which would impose sanctions on persons that aid efforts by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to prosecute Americans or Israelis.
- Rep. Chip Roy's (R-TX) bill, the No Taxpayer Funding for the World Health Organization Act, which would prohibit the United States from providing any assessed or voluntary contributions to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Rep. Chip Roy's (R-TX) bill, the No Taxpayer Funding for United Nations Human Rights Council Act, which would require the Department of State to withhold from the U.S. contribution to the United Nations (U.N.) the amount that would be allocated to the U.N. Human Rights Council. The bill would require such withheld funds to be rescinded and must not be considered an outstanding amount to be repaid to any U.N. entity.
- Rep. Chip Roy's (R-TX) bill, the No Taxpayer Funding for the U.N. Population Fund, which would prohibit the Department of State or any other department or agency from contributing funds directly or indirectly to the United Nations Population Fund. This legislation would prevent American tax dollars from propping up an international program complicit in China's abusive population-control programs, which included forced abortions and the forced sterilization of women.
- Rep. Chip Roy's (R-TX) bill, the Move the ICC Out of NYC Act, which would forbid United Nations properties in New York, NY from being used, leased, or occupied by representatives or employees of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which has long worked against America and our allies.
- Rep. Jefferson Shreve's (R-IN) bill, the BANNED in Latin America Act, which would direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to address Iran's and Hezbollah's propaganda, missionary networks, and influence-peddling operations in Latin America. The bill would provide a clearer pathway for addressing the terrorist regime head-on, and to counter their influence.
- Rep. Chris Smith's (R-NJ) bill, the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act, which would update and reauthorize earlier U.S. laws targeting the authoritarian regime of Alyaksandr Lukashenka in Belarus. The bill would support the Belarusian people's aspirations for democracy, condemn ongoing human rights violations, and counter Belarus's increasing alignment with Russia, especially in the context of the war in Ukraine. The bill details a long list of findings documenting the Lukashenka regime's repression, fraudulent elections, suppression of independent media, and complicity in Russia's aggression, including the abduction and deportation of Ukrainian children.
- Rep. Greg Steube's (R-FL) bill, the No Support for Terror Act, which would require the Department of the Treasury to instruct the U.S. Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to oppose the allocation of Special Drawing Rights, international reserve assets created by the IMF to supplement member countries' official foreign exchange reserves, to any country that is a perpetrator of

genocide or a state sponsor of terrorism and to advocate that the IMF adopt a rule prohibiting such an allocation.

- Rep. Greg Steube's (R-FL) bill, the Addressing Hostile and Antisemitic Conduct by the Republic of South Africa Act, which would suspend direct assistance to South Africa while imposing targeted sanctions on political leaders responsible for their government's antagonism towards the United States and its allies, lawfare against Israel at the International Court of Justice, and aligning with Iranian economic and military interests.
- Rep. Tom Tiffany's (R-WI) bill, the No WHO Pandemic Preparedness Treaty Without Senate Approval Act, which would affirm that the World Health Organization's (WHO) pandemic agreement is a treaty subject to Senate approval.
- Rep. William Timmons' (R-SC) bill, the Old Glory Only Act, which would prohibit flying any flag other than the United States flag over United States diplomatic and consular posts.
- Rep. Ann Wagner's (R-MO) bill, the Taiwan Assurance Implementation Act, which would require the Department of State to conduct periodic reviews of its guidelines for U.S. engagement with Taiwan. The bill would require the regular reviews and updates to: explain how the guidance deepens and expands U.S. –Taiwan relations, and reflects the value, merits, and importance of the U.S. –Taiwan relationship; give due consideration to the fact that Taiwan is a democratic partner and a free and open society that respects universal human rights and democratic values; ensure that the conduct of relations with Taiwan reflects the longstanding, comprehensive, and values-based relationship the United States shares with Taiwan, and contribute to the peaceful resolution of cross-Straits issues; and identify opportunities to lift any remaining self-imposed limitations on U.S. –Taiwan engagement and articulate a plan to do so.
- Rep. Ann Wagner's (R-MO) bill, the Upholding the Dayton Peace Agreement Through Sanctions Act, which would mandate sanctions on foreign persons who undermine the Dayton Peace Agreement or otherwise threaten the stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Rep. Joe Wilson's (R-SC) bill, the Free Iraq from Iran Act, which would support Iraq's independence from Iran by designating key, Iran-backed groups and agents in Iraq and prohibiting U.S. funds to Iran-backed militias.
- Rep. Joe Wilson's (R-SC) bill, the MEGOBARI Act, which would mandate a comprehensive sanctions review of all Georgian Dream officials. Those found to have engaged in corruption or undermining Georgian sovereignty would be sanctioned. This bill would also provide for a certification mechanism that mandates a deeper relationship between the United States and Georgia, once Georgia's democracy and sovereignty have been restored, and would require a full report of Russian and Chinese intelligence assets in Georgia and Russian-Chinese cooperation to undermine Georgian democracy and sovereignty.

## Empowerment Through Self-Sufficiency

Conservatives believe there is dignity in work and in living a fulfilling, self-sufficient life. That is, in fact, what America was built on. Unfortunately, as currently constructed, welfare programs in the U.S. are inefficient, poorly targeted, and inadequately designed to transition people back into work. These programs currently contain numerous loopholes and fail to achieve their intended purpose of bettering the lives of those in need. Rather than trapping individuals in a cycle of poverty, government should remove obstacles to opportunity and empower all Americans to overcome economic hardship, rather than prolonging it. The true measure of a welfare program's success is not enrollment numbers but rather how many participants successfully transfer out of the program.

### **Safeguarding Health Care**

Republicans have developed and enacted landmark legislation to improve affordability, access, quality, and innovation in the U.S. health system. Republicans have focused on empowering patients, supporting providers, and driving market-based solutions that deliver tangible results for American families.

In 2009, Republicans passed two transformative pieces of legislation. The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) expanded health coverage to millions of low-income children, streamlined eligibility requirements, and simplified the enrollment process. This legislation ensured the most vulnerable children gained access to essential health care services. That same year, Republicans led passage of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. HITECH incentivized the use of electronic health records (EHRs) and improved interoperability across various EHR systems to reduce administrative costs and potentially deadly record errors.

In 2016, Republicans passed the 21st Century Cures Act which provided critical funding for medical research and drug development. The bill also included key provisions to address the opioid crisis and reduce overdose deaths. In 2020, Republicans passed the No Surprises Act to protect patients from surprise medical bills and ensure patients could make informed health care decisions without the fear of financial surprise. This legislation also improved transparency in medical billing and contracting in the health system.

These are significant legislative accomplishments that continue to deliver impactful benefits for all Americans. These policies reduce prescription drug costs, increase access to breakthrough therapies that offer hope for previously untreatable conditions, and ensure individuals have greater control over their health care data and choices. Republican health care reforms have consistently prioritized patient welfare and medical innovation. By

creating competitive marketplaces and incentivizing quality care, these policies have driven systemic improvements that benefit all Americans, regardless of their political affiliation.

America is entering a Golden Age under President Trump's commitment to Make America Great Again. As part of President Trump's Administration, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has taken bold action to extend this mission to the U.S. health system through his pledge to Make America Healthy Again. The success of the past three decades provides a roadmap for continued Republican health care leadership. The RSC Budget builds on these achievements while addressing emerging health care needs and fiscal realities. The ongoing fight against waste, fraud, and abuse remains critical, as these inefficiencies continue to add billions of dollars to the federal deficit while diverting crucial resources from patient care. Ensuring every health care dollar serves its intended purpose requires vigilant oversight and robust accountability measures.

The American health care system possesses enormous potential to lead the world in both quality and innovation. Through continued Republican leadership prioritizing market-based solutions, patient choice, and fiscal responsibility, this potential can be fully realized. The U.S. health system can and must deliver for all Americans.

### **Ensuring Medicaid Helps the Most Vulnerable**

Medicaid is a joint federal-state program, enacted in 1965, to finance the delivery of care to vulnerable Americans, including low-income pregnant mothers, foster youth, and disabled individuals. Medicaid is a means-tested program limited to individuals in significant financial need, as determined by income and asset evaluation.

While states are not required to participate in Medicaid, states that do must meet certain federal requirements. Generally, the federal government sets minimum eligibility standards and states have the flexibility to determine other program parameters to best serve their specific population. The federal government jointly finances Medicaid by reimbursing states for a portion of their Medicaid program costs. The federal government currently pays close to 75 percent of all Medicaid costs.<sup>57</sup>

Medicaid is an open-ended entitlement program, meaning there is no cap on federal spending within the Medicaid program. There is thus a direct correlation between state spending and federal spending in Medicaid. In other words, if a state spends more on their Medicaid program, the federal government will spend more regardless of the return on investment for taxpayers or the benefit to individuals. Consequently, Medicaid's spending

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<sup>57</sup> <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/EXHIBIT-16.-Medicaid-Spending-by-State-Category-and-Source-of-Funds-FY-2023.pdf>

has grown from \$1 billion to over \$871.7 billion in 2023.<sup>58</sup> The RSC Budget proposes setting the amount of funding the federal government would provide to each state to operate their respective Medicaid program. This would provide states with more certainty and flexibility in managing their respective Medicaid programs.

The Democrats' partisan "Affordable Care Act" (ACA) of 2010 expanded Medicaid beyond the program's original intent to include able-bodied, working-age adults. This was a major change to the Medicaid program which opened the door for unprecedented growth in spending and fraud. Democrats provided states a federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) of 90 percent for these able-bodied adults, much higher than the FMAP provided for the traditional, vulnerable populations. By shifting the financial burden away from states and onto the federal taxpayer, Democrats effectively removed the incentive for states to limit costs in their Medicaid programs or to root out waste, fraud, and abuse. Furthermore, these policies created an incentive for states to increase costs in Medicaid to draw down more federal funds. This created a deeply unfair and corrupted Medicaid system through misplaced priorities and irresponsible policies.

Despite claims to the contrary, Republicans are working to restore Medicaid to its fundamental purpose and put an end to distorted incentives that harm the vulnerable and hardworking Americans the program was intended to serve. The RSC Budget proposes equalizing the FMAP for the expansion population with the traditional Medicaid population and ending favoritism for wealthy states. The current FMAP favors able-bodied, working aged adults over vulnerable individuals whom the Medicaid program was designed to protect. Under current law, the federal government pays \$9 for every \$1 of state spending on able-bodied, working-age adults, compared with roughly \$1.33 for pregnant women and disabled children. A 2024 study found this perverse incentive structure has funneled resources away from low-income children and people with disabilities because providers make less money serving this population.<sup>59</sup> The RSC Budget ensures those most in need of health care services are once again the priority of the system.

## **Expand Health Savings Accounts**

The RSC Budget expands access to Health Savings Accounts (HSA) by increasing maximum contributions and expanding the scope of eligible health care expenditures, such as to Direct Primary Care (DPC) arrangements, provisions included in the reconciliation bill passed by the House of Representatives but not included in the final bill text. These policies

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<sup>58</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/data-research/statistics-trends-and-reports/national-health-expenditure-data/nhe-fact-sheet>

<sup>59</sup> <https://paragoninstitute.org/medicaid/medicaid-financing-reform-stopping-discrimination-against-the-most-vulnerable-and-reducing-bias-favoring-wealthy-states/>

would allow individuals greater flexibility over their health spending and better ability to handle their health needs.

The RSC Budget supports the following bills:

- Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene’s (R-GA) bill, the Protect Children’s Innocence Act, which would criminalize genital mutilation, chemical castration, and all sex-change procedures performed on children.
- Rep. Brett Guthrie’s (R-KY) bill, the Medicaid VBPs for Patients (MVP) Act, which would expand the use of value-based purchasing (VBP) arrangements in Medicaid to expand patient access to novel therapies.
- Rep. Carol Miller’s (R-WV) bill, the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) Authorization Act, which would extend the authorization for many programs combatting opioid abuse and addiction.
- Rep. Greg Murphy’s (R-NC) bill, the No Handouts for Drug Advertisements Act, which would eliminate the tax deduction for expenses related to direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription and compounded drugs.
- Rep. Greg Murphy’s (R-NC) bill, the Ensuring Pathways to Innovative Cures (EPIC) Act, which would ensure research and development in small molecule medicines continues by repealing a provision in the Inflation Reduction Act which implemented a “pill penalty” on small molecule drugs.
- Rep. Claudia Tenney’s (R-NY) bill, the No Subsidies for Gender Transition Procedures Act, which would prohibit taxpayer funding for gender transition procedures covered by Medicaid, Medicare, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and the Affordable Care Act. This bill would also deny the medical expense tax deduction for gender transition procedures.
- Budget Task Force Chair Beth Van Duyne’s (R-TX) bill, the Patient Access to Higher Quality Health Care Act, which would repeal federal restrictions on physician-owned hospitals to allow doctors to establish and expand hospitals, increase competition, and improve patient access to high-quality care.

### **Strengthening Food Assistance**

#### **Eliminating Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in SNAP**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly referred to as Food Stamps, was created to help low-income households cover the cost of food. SNAP provides monthly cash benefits to eligible, low-income households to support their food purchases.<sup>60</sup> Unfortunately, the Biden Administration severely damaged the integrity of

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<sup>60</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>

SNAP by abusing the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) calculation and waiving work requirements for able-bodied adults. These changes cost taxpayers approximately \$250 to \$300 billion dollars and were implemented without any input from Congress.<sup>61</sup>

Previous spikes in SNAP participation correlated with increased unemployment, and SNAP enrollments decreased accordingly as the economy improved. Under the Biden Administration, however, SNAP enrollment remained at record highs even as the unemployment rate plummeted from 14.8 percent in 2020 to 3.6 percent after the COVID-19 lockdowns ended.<sup>62</sup> The annual cost of SNAP has ballooned from \$60 billion to \$110 billion in just five years.<sup>63</sup> Though some try to brag about this statistic, as if increasing the number of people dependent on government subsidies is some sort of win, the truth is the success of SNAP is measured by how many people are helped out of poverty and off of government assistance. The *failure* of SNAP is determined by how many people are on the rolls.

The RSC Budget proposes building on the successful policies included in the 2025 reconciliation law by rescinding the Biden Administration's reckless expansion of SNAP and ending provisions abused by states which allow waste, fraud, and abuse in the program to run rampant.

### **Closing SNAP Loopholes**

Broad-based categorical eligibility (BBCE) allows states to determine a household is automatically eligible for SNAP because they qualify for a non-cash benefit from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or state maintenance of effort (MOE) benefit.<sup>64</sup> Simply using federal dollars to hand out welfare brochures or refer households to a toll-free number providing program information qualifies as a benefit that applicants can claim to then qualify for SNAP, all without submitting any information on their household income or assets.<sup>65</sup> This allows individuals who have never received TANF benefits, and would not even qualify for such benefits, to qualify for SNAP.

BBCE is egregiously abused by states to circumvent SNAP income limits, allowing millionaires and lottery winners to receive SNAP benefits.<sup>66,67</sup> In 2023, approximately 5.4

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<sup>61</sup> <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2022-06/58231-Smith.pdf#page=2>

<sup>62</sup> <https://cosm.aei.org/what-do-you-call-an-automatic-stabilizer-that-doesnt-shrink-when-conditions-improve-the-biden-food-stamps-blowout/>

<sup>63</sup> [https://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/reconciliation\\_overview\\_one\\_pager.pdf](https://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/reconciliation_overview_one_pager.pdf)

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/broad-based-categorical-eligibility>

<sup>65</sup> <https://thefga.org/one-pagers/eliminate-broad-based-categorical-eligibility-bbce/>

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/us/65000-stayed-food-stamp-rolls-despite-winning-big-lottery-government-data-show>

<sup>67</sup> <https://www.foxbusiness.com/personal-finance/how-this-minnesota-millionaire-receives-hundreds-of-dollars-of-food-stamps>

million food stamp recipients enrolled through BBCE did not meet eligibility criteria for SNAP.<sup>68</sup> BBCE promotes fraud and abuse within SNAP and prevents resources from reaching those who are truly in need of assistance. The RSC Budget eliminates the BBCE loophole to restore program integrity and protect the most vulnerable.

SNAP requires that able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) work, volunteer, or participate in a training program for at least 80 hours a month.<sup>69</sup> Congress took important action in the Republican reconciliation law to protect the program's integrity by adjusting the age limits for ABAWDs to 18 years of age through 64 years of age. Congress further closed loopholes being abused by states to automatically enroll Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) participants in SNAP and using internet costs in computing shelter expenses.

States frequently circumvent the SNAP work requirement by applying for geographic waivers. These waivers exempt ABAWDs in areas with an unemployment rate above 10 percent from the mandated SNAP work requirements. In FY 2024, 22 states implemented geographic waivers and 10 states implemented geographic waivers for the *entire state*.<sup>70</sup> Collectively these waivers exempt 63 percent of SNAP recipients from the program's work requirements.<sup>71</sup> The RSC Budget calls for ending the geographic waiver for SNAP.

### **Ensuring Program Integrity**

In FY 2024, SNAP had a payment error rate of 11 percent, costing American taxpayers billions of dollars.<sup>72</sup> The 2025 reconciliation law takes serious, ground-breaking action to reduce SNAP error payments by requiring states with high error payment rates to share in the cost of SNAP benefits. This will incentivize states to improve program administration, seek efficiencies, and control costs. Further, USDA currently excludes payment errors of \$57 or less from a state's payment error rate.<sup>73</sup> The House reduced this tolerance level for errors in SNAP payments to \$0 in its reconciliation text. The RSC has long called for states to share in the cost of providing SNAP benefits to align the program with other state-administered entitlements. The RSC Budget strongly supports the provisions in the Republican reconciliation law and the error payment changes in the House-passed text and calls for continued action to ensure states have skin in the game to protect program integrity and benefits for the most vulnerable.

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<sup>68</sup> <https://thefga.org/research/how-congress-can-protect-needy-by-ending-bbce/>

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/work-requirements>

<sup>70</sup> <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/FY24-Quarter-2-ABAWD-Waiver-Status.pdf>

<sup>71</sup> <https://epicforamerica.org/social-programs/these-states-waived-the-food-stamp-work-requirements/>

<sup>72</sup> <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/snap-fy24QC-PER.pdf>

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/qc/ett>



The RSC Budget supports the following bills:

- Rep. Josh Brecheen's (R-OK) bill, the Healthy SNAP Act, which would prohibit the use of SNAP benefits to purchase soft drinks, candy, ice cream, or prepared desserts.
- Rep. Josh Brecheen's (R-OK) bill, the SNAP Reform and Upward Mobility Act, which would close many of the loopholes in SNAP, enforce transparency and accountability in the program, and give states more responsibility and control over the program. Some of the provisions in this bill were included in the 2025 reconciliation law.
- Rep. Eric Burlison's (R-MO) bill, the Ending the Cycle of Dependency Act, which would end the abuse of geographical waivers in SNAP.
- Rep. Ben Cline's (R-VA) bill, the No Welfare for the Wealthy Act, which would eliminate the Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) loophole in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and stop waste, fraud, and abuse within the food stamp program.
- Rep. Randy Feenstra's (R-IA) bill, the Snap Back Inaccurate SNAP Payments Act, which would require states to recoup SNAP benefit overpayments and adjust the formula for determining a state's liability rate for overpayments to more accurately reflect error payments made in each state.
- Rep. David Rouzer's (R-NC) bill, the Securing Strictly Needy Americans' Pivotal (SNAP) Benefits Act, which would require state agencies to suspend a household's SNAP account if the transactions on an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card are made exclusively out-of-state for more than 60 days.
- Rep. Keith Self's (R-TX) bill, the FIZZ-NO Act, which would prohibit using SNAP benefits to purchase sugary carbonated beverages.

### **Promoting Upward Mobility in Housing Assistance**

The two largest federal housing programs, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and Project-Based Rental Assistance, provide subsidies for tenants to pay rent and for construction of housing units. In their current form, these programs encourage broken homes, fragmented communities, and dependence among recipients. Housing assistance should promote upward mobility rather than condemn the most vulnerable to permanent dependency.

The RSC Budget streamlines rental housing assistance programs within HUD that duplicate efforts of Section 8 tenant-based and project-based programs. The list of programs that overlap is lengthy, including the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program, HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants, Section 101 Rent Supplement Program, the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, the Self-Help and Assisted Home Ownership Program, and the Section 236 Rental Assistance Payments Program.

The RSC Budget also combines current subsidies for home building and availability programs, such as the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, project-based Section 8 rental assistance, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, and public housing, into Section 8 housing vouchers. This would ensure that recipients can use assistance to acquire housing in an efficient way that is subject to market price signals while reducing bureaucracy. Given the inherently local nature of housing assistance, the RSC Budget uses the successful TANF model to phase in a modest state-share requirement to encourage competent administration and incentivize states to move voucher recipients into good-paying jobs. The RSC Budget also reduces management and administration funding to account for streamlining and simplifying federal housing programs.

## Protecting Seniors

RSC Members are dedicated to supporting seniors. That is why the Republican reconciliation law provided the largest tax relief in American history for U.S. seniors. Thanks to this legislation, 88 percent of seniors receiving Social Security will not pay any tax on their benefits.<sup>74</sup> Prior to this legislation, seniors were taxed on 50 percent to 85 percent of their Social Security benefits. The provisions in the Republican reconciliation law put more money back into the pockets of low- and middle-income seniors who have struggles with the inflation and rising costs of living caused by the Biden Administration's reckless policies.

The RSC Budget does not raise the retirement age or reduce Social Security benefits. The RSC Budget focuses on rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in the Social Security system and enacting pro-growth economic policies.

### **Protecting Medicare**

Medicare is a federal program, established in 1965, to provide health insurance to individuals age 65 and older. The program has expanded over the years to also cover individuals with a disability, end-stage renal disease (ESRD), and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). In 1997, Republicans created Medicare Advantage through passage of the Balanced Budget Act. This groundbreaking program introduced managed care options into Medicare, giving seniors unprecedented choice in their health care coverage, and established a foundation for quality-based care delivery.

In 2003, Republicans led the passage of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) which established Medicare Part D. MMA directly addressed the critical gap in prescription drug coverage for America's seniors. Medicare Part D's design utilized market competition to drive down costs while ensuring broad access to essential medications. MMA also updated Medicare Advantage to move away from a traditional volume-based payment system towards a system based on quality. This incentivized health care providers to prioritize patients' health outcomes rather than simply focusing on quantity of patients served.

Today, Medicare consists of four parts that cover different services:

- Part A covers inpatient hospital services, skilled nursing care, and some home health services.

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<sup>74</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/The-One-Big-Beautiful-Bill-Delivers-On-President-Trumps-Promise-Of-No-Tax-On-Social-Security.pdf>

- Part B covers medical services and supplies, including physician, laboratory, outpatient and some home-health services, physician-administered drugs, and durable medical equipment. Enrollment in Part B is optional.
- Part C, also known as Medicare Advantage, is a private plan that covers all services under Parts A and B, except hospice. Medicare Advantage Plans may offer additional “supplemental” benefits or require lower co-payments or deductibles than original Medicare. Enrollment in Part C is optional; however, seniors who choose to enroll in Part C must also enroll in Parts A and B.
- Part D is an optional outpatient prescription drug benefit provided through private prescription drug plans. Part D is optional.

In recent years, insurance companies have unfortunately exploited Medicare Advantage.<sup>75</sup> The RSC Budget addresses these issues by reforming the most pertinent areas of fraud, updating the benchmark for MA plans, updating the current MA risk scoring system, and requiring MA to cover hospice care. These reforms will ensure MA better meets the needs of American seniors and will be able to provide coverage for years to come.

Medicare is financed through two separate trust funds. The Hospital Insurance (HI) trust fund finances Part A and the Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI) trust fund finances Parts B and D. Part C payments are made from both trust funds. The HI trust fund, designed to be self-sufficient, is financed primarily through payroll taxes. The SMI trust fund relies primarily on general tax revenues and beneficiary premiums.

The Board of Trustees oversees the financial operation of the trust funds and is statutorily required to report annually to Congress on the status of the trust funds. According to the 2025 annual Trustees report, Medicare continues to face a substantial financial shortfall that must be addressed through legislation. The Trustees project that the HI trust fund will fall short of expenditures starting in 2027, after which point the HI trust fund will incur annual deficits until it is completely depleted in 2033.<sup>76</sup>

Solving the impending fiscal crisis facing Medicare cannot be accomplished by one party alone. The RSC Budget calls for Democrats to work with Republicans to protect Medicare for future generations.

The RSC Budget supports the following bills and policies:

- Rep. Aaron Bean’s (R-FL) bill, the Apples to Apples Act, which would ensure consumers have accurate data to compare Medicare Advantage and Fee-for-Service

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<sup>75</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/united-states-files-false-claims-act-complaint-against-three-national-health-insurance>

<sup>76</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/oact/tr/2025>

options by requiring CMS to accurately compare costs and health outcomes between the two options.

- Rep. Richard Hudson's (R-NC) bill, the Multi Cancer Early Detection Act, which would expand Medicare coverage for multi-cancer early detection screening tests which are approved by the FDA and used to screen for many cancer types, if CMS determines such coverage appropriate.
- Rep. David Schweikert's (R-AZ) bill, the Medicare Advantage Reform Act, which would reform Medicare Advantage to lower expenditures and maintain benefits for America's seniors.

## **Protecting Social Security**

### **Social Security's Original Purpose and Current Challenges**

Social Security's original purpose was to provide stability for those living past their working years through additional income support.<sup>77</sup> However, since President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act of 1935, the program's size, scope, and costs have expanded tremendously. This includes the addition of disability benefits, dependent and survivor benefits, and the incorporation of automatic cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). The RSC Budget is committed to preserving Social Security.

When Social Security was implemented in 1935, the average life expectancy was 60 years of age. Even accounting for the high infant mortality at the time, only 57 percent of 21 year olds lived to age 65 in 1940.<sup>78</sup> By 1990, 78 percent of 21 year olds lived to the age of 65 and today, the average life expectancy is 78 years of age.<sup>79</sup> In 2024, 60.1 million Americans received Social Security benefits under the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and 8.3 million received Social Security Disability Insurance (DI).<sup>80</sup>

OASI is funded through payroll taxes paid by employees and employers. There is a frequent misconception that individuals "pay in" to Social Security through their payroll taxes like a retirement fund and the money will automatically be there for them when they retire. However, Social Security payroll taxes are actually used to provide Social Security benefits to current retirees, not saved for future beneficiaries. As the ratio of working-age individuals (generally ages 25 to 64) decreases relative to the number of individuals age 65 and older,

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<sup>77</sup> <https://legal-info.lawyers.com/social-security/social-security-basics/social-security-why-it-was-created-and-how-it-works.html>

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.ssa.gov/history/lifeexpect.html>

<sup>79</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/life-expectancy.htm>

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.ssa.gov/oact/TRSUM/tr25summary.pdf#page=13>

there is a growing gap between the payroll taxes collected and the Social Security benefits provided.<sup>81</sup>

The OASI trust fund has covered the difference between Social Security outlays and revenues since 2010 to prevent an automatic benefit reduction. According to the Social Security Trustees' most recent report, without action, the OASI Trust Fund will reach insolvency in 2033, triggering a 23 percent across-the-board cut to benefits for seniors currently relying on the program.<sup>82</sup> These devastating cuts would leave many seniors unable to make ends meet and rob them of their ability to live with dignity and independence. Millions of American families who provide support to loved ones would experience economic hardship as well.

### **Preserving Social Security**

The first step to preserving Social Security is improving program integrity and rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse. Government entitlement programs are particularly susceptible to fraud and abuse by bad actors, and Social Security is no exception. In FY 2023, the Social Security Administration estimated it made over \$10 billion in improper payments.<sup>83</sup> A recent study estimates \$3 billion in improper Social Security payments is lost annually.<sup>84</sup> Since 2020, over \$547 million has been lost in Social Security scams alone.<sup>85</sup> Eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse in the program will not completely solve the impending insolvency of Social Security but it is an important first step.

Another part of the problem is the structure of the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), which determines annual benefit adjustments. As inflation skyrocketed under the Biden Administration's reckless spending spree, the Social Security COLA automatically increased without congressional approval. The Biden inflation crisis exacerbated the Social Security short fall. The vast majority of Social Security's cost increase in 2024 stemmed from an increase in average benefits, which were largely attributable to the inflation-induced COLA increases.<sup>86</sup> Another part of the problem is that rather than use the traditional Consumer Price Index (CPI), Social Security relies on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). CPI-W is based on costs incurred by urban wage workers, who only represent 30 percent of the population.<sup>87</sup> Alternate CPIs would

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<sup>81</sup> <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61164>

<sup>82</sup> <https://www.ssa.gov/oact/trsum/>

<sup>83</sup> <https://oig.ssa.gov/assets/uploads/ssa-oig-semiannual-report-to-congress-spring-2025.pdf#page=20>

<sup>84</sup> <https://www.crfb.org/press-releases/fact-sheet-how-much-waste-fraud-and-abuse-there-social-security>

<sup>85</sup> <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/federal.trade.commission/viz/GovernmentImposter/Infographic>

<sup>86</sup> <https://www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2024.pdf>

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/technical-notes/>

provide a more accurate measure of inflation when calculating the annual COLA for Social Security.

Additionally, the RSC Budget increases trust fund solvency through pro-growth tax reform, pro-growth energy policies that lifts wages, work requirements that move Americans from welfare to work,<sup>88</sup> and regulatory reforms that increase economic growth and build on the successful policies contained in the Republican reconciliation law. Higher wage growth under the RSC Budget's pro-growth policies can help offset the rising costs of Social Security benefits. In tandem with other reforms, these policies make a tangible difference in preserving Social Security benefits.

### **Social Security Reform's History of Bipartisanship**

For decades, lawmakers and experts have acted in a bipartisan fashion to propose and enact various reforms to extend the solvency of the Social Security retirement program. The 1983 Social Security Amendments, which the Social Security Administration regards as a "major milestone in the legislative history of the Social Security program...[and] might fairly be described as the last major Social Security legislation of the twentieth century,"<sup>89</sup> made necessary bipartisan changes to ensure Social Security's solvency. The 1983 Amendments were based on recommendations produced by the bipartisan National Commission on Social Security Reform, also known as the Greenspan Commission.<sup>90</sup> Among other things, the 1983 amendments suspended auxiliary benefits to aliens outside the U.S. for more than six consecutive calendar months unless the beneficiary had resided in the U.S. for at least five years.<sup>91</sup> The RSC Budget supports measures which ensure Social Security benefits are paid to American citizens primarily residing in the United States.

The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 explicitly prohibits changes to Social Security through the reconciliation process. Any legislation addressing Social Security must secure 60 votes in the Senate.<sup>92</sup> Even if one party had a super majority in both chambers and controlled the White House, bipartisan buy-in is necessary to prevent a political tug-of-war on Social Security policy, which would harm seniors more than help them. The RSC Budget calls on Democrats to come to the table and negotiate in good faith with Republicans to prevent Social Security insolvency. Time is of the essence and America's seniors cannot wait.

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<sup>88</sup> <https://thefga.org/one-pagers/the-top-two-reforms-to-restore-federal-fiscal-sanity/>

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.ssa.gov/history/tally1983.html#:~:text=The%201983%20Social%20Security%20Amendments,legislation%20of%20the%20twentieth%20century>

<sup>90</sup> <https://www.ssa.gov/history/reports/gspan5.html>

<sup>91</sup> <https://www.ssa.gov/history/1983amend.html>

<sup>92</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R48444>

## Conservative Values

### **Protecting Life**

President Ronald Reagan once said, “I’ve noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born.” The gift of life is precious and should be protected. The boundless potential of each life cannot be prejudged, especially with the freedoms afforded in the United States. Conservatives believe in creating a culture of life, compassion, and opportunity.

RSC celebrates the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* decision as a historic victory in the effort to defend innocent life and to return to the Constitution as it was written. Since this landmark decision, several states have attempted to implement laws that further protect life within their borders. The RSC Budget supports these efforts and recognizes that current federal policies fail to uphold the 14th Amendment and protect the right to life for our nation’s most vulnerable. The budget also opposes any federal policy that directly or indirectly facilitates or subsidizes abortions with taxpayer money. Additionally, the RSC Budget supports the heroic efforts made by countless families, individuals, and organizations to provide resources to mothers and children in need, including through crisis pregnancy centers.

The RSC Budget applauds the following measures designed to advance the cause of life:

- Rep. Eric Burlison’s (R-MO) bill, the Life at Conception Act, which would recognize unborn children as “persons” under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.
- Rep. Michelle Fischbach’s (R-MN) bill, the Protecting Life and Taxpayers Act, which would require all entities receiving federal funds to certify they will not perform abortions or provide any funds to any other entity that performs abortions.
- Rep. Virginia Foxx’s (R-NC) bill, the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, which would prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) from awarding family planning grants to entities that perform abortions or provide funding to other entities that perform abortions.
- Rep. Virginia Foxx’s (R-NC) bill, the Protecting Life in Foreign Assistance Act, which would require non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to certify they will not perform or actively promote abortion as a condition of receiving global health assistance from the U.S.
- Rep. Scott Franklin’s (R-FL) bill, the Prohibiting Abortion Industry’s Lucrative Loopholes Act, which would close existing legal loopholes and strengthen penalties to ensure abortion organizations or other institutions cannot profit off the sale of fetal remains.



- Rep. Mark Harris' (R-NC) bill, the Teleabortion Prevention Act, which would make it a federal offense for doctors to send abortion pills through the mail.
- Rep. Kevin Hern's (R-OK) bill, the Protecting Life from Chemical Abortions Act, which would prevent the Executive Branch from declaring an abortion-related public health emergency. It would also reinstate safety regulations and in-person dispensing requirements for dangerous chemical abortions.
- Rep. Erin Houchin's (R-IN) bill, the Abortion Funding Awareness Act, which would require states to report all Medicaid payments made to abortion providers, submit annual reports detailing those transactions, and publish this information, to prevent states from circumventing federal restrictions on direct funding for abortion.
- Rep. Mike Kelly's (R-PA) bill, the Heartbeat Protection Act, which would prohibit abortions when a baby's heartbeat is detected.
- Rep. Mary Miller's (R-IL) bill, the Love Them Both Act, which would prohibit the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) from using the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act to force employers to facilitate an employee's abortion.
- RSC Chairman August Pfluger's (R-TX) bill, the Second Chance at Life Act, which would establish federal informed consent requirements for chemical abortions to ensure women are told it may be possible to reverse the effects of mifepristone if they change their mind.
- Rep. Chip Roy's (R-TX) bill, the Protecting Life on College Campus Act, which would prohibit federal funds from going to institutions of higher education that partner with or host student health services that provide abortions.
- Rep. Chris Smith's (R-NJ) bill, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act, which would permanently prohibit the use of federal funds to fund abortions.
- Rep. Ann Wagner's (R-MO) bill, the Born-Alive Survivor's Protection Act, which would ensure medical protections for babies who survive an attempted abortion. It would also require health care providers to administer the same medical care for a baby born prematurely as any newborn, transport the baby to a hospital, and report any violations to law enforcement.

### **Defending the Second Amendment**

The Second Amendment is a fundamental pillar of the Constitution which safeguards the security and liberty of all American citizens. It serves as an important check on governmental power while preserving individual rights. Disagreements over interpretation of the Second Amendment involve more than policy debates; they touch on core questions about constitutional governance and the balance between collective security and individual freedoms. The Second Amendment is foundational to maintaining all other rights held by Americans.

The Republican reconciliation law removed a long-standing and unfair tax on silencers, short-barreled rifles, and short-barreled shotguns. It also ensured this change preempted any state and local licensing or registration requirements contrary to the provision. This was a major victory in the reconciliation law for Second Amendment rights secured by RSC Members.

The RSC Budget supports the following bills and policies:

- Rep. Don Bacon's (R-NE) bill, the LEOSA Reform Act, which would broaden the ability of qualified active and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms in areas such as school zones, national parks, federal facilities open to the public, and state, local, or private property open to the public.
- Rep. Michael Cloud's (R-TX) bill, the Protecting the Right to Keep and Bear Arms Act, which would prohibit the President or the Department of Health and Human Services from declaring emergencies or disasters for the purpose of imposing gun control. The bill would also prohibit a federal officer or employee, or person receiving federal funds, from banning the possession, manufacture, sale, or transfer of weapons, ammunition, or firearm accessories while acting in support of relief from a major disaster or emergency.
- Rep. Andrew Clyde's (R-GA) bill, the SHORT Act, which would amend the Internal Revenue Code to remove short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, and certain other weapons from the definition of firearms for purposes of taxation, registration, and regulation under the National Firearms Act.
- Rep. Darrell Issa's (R-CA) bill, the FIREARM Act, which would prohibit the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) from bringing an enforcement action to revoke or deny renewal of a federal firearms license on the basis of a self-reported violation that is correctable, so long as the violation did not involve the transfer of a firearm to a prohibited person.
- Rep. Tim Moore's (R-NC) bill, the Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act, which would require the Attorney General to assemble data on violence against law enforcement officers and the effectiveness of programs meant to provide law enforcement with wellness resources and protective equipment.
- Majority Leader Steve Scalise's (R-LA) bill, the Firearms Interstate Commerce Reform Act, which would remove statutory burdens on law-abiding gun owners and improve the legal firearm purchase process for law-abiding U.S. citizens and active-duty military.

## **Expanding Choice in Education**

The RSC Budget advances a conservative agenda on education that respects the fundamental role of parents, defunds woke and divisive ideology including so-called diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and critical race theory (CRT), promotes school choice, addresses malign foreign influence, protects the integrity of girls and women's athletics and facilities, brings much-needed accountability to institutions of higher education and the federal student loan program, and highlights pathways to thoughtfully and effectively wind down the federal Department of Education and return control over education to where it belongs: the states, local communities, and families.

There is a fundamental difference between protecting equality of opportunity and equity, despite efforts to conflate them to advance divisive identity politics and socialist policies. CRT, rooted in Marxist thought, seeks to divide the American people and upend society.<sup>93</sup> What began as a Marxist academic concept is now being taught as an unquestionable collection of values, rather than an abstract theory. It is crucial to defend the civil rights of every citizen, not divide the American people along lines of race, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.

The RSC Budget supports the following bills and policies:

- Rep. Michael Baumgartner's (R-WA) bill, the Defending Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Transactions (DETERRENT) Act, which would strengthen disclosure and reporting requirements for institutions of higher education (IHEs) that receive funds from foreign countries and restrict IHEs from entering into contracts with adversarial countries such as China and Russia.
- Rep. Gus Bilirakis' (R-FL) bill, the Eliminate DEI in Colleges Act, which would prohibit colleges and universities receiving federal funding from engaging in school-sponsored Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) events, programs, and activities.
- Rep. Eric Burlison's (R-MO) bill, the Achieving Choice in Education (ACE) Act, which would expand 529 Education Savings Plans by increasing the annual limit for 529 contributions to \$20,000 and incentivize states to increase school choice by adjusting federal tax exclusions on state municipal bonds according to the level of school choice in the state.
- Rep. Kevin Hern's (R-OK) bill, the Promoting Responsible Oversight To Eliminate Communist Teachings (PROTECT) for Our Kids Act, which would prohibit federal funds from going to K-12 schools that receive direct or indirect support from China.

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<sup>93</sup> <https://www.heritage.org/civil-rights/report/critical-race-theory-the-new-intolerance-and-its-grip-america>

- Rep. Messmer's (R-IN) bill, the No Vaccine Mandates in Higher Education Act, which would withholding federal funds for any college or university that continues to mandate a required COVID-19 vaccination.
- Rep. Mary Miller's (R-IL) bill, the Keep Our Girls Safe Act, which would clarify that Title IX prohibits federally funded K-12 schools and institutions of higher education from permitting biological males to access sensitive female-only spaces such as locker rooms.
- Rep. Burgess Owens' (R-UT) bill, the Say No to Indoctrination Act, which would prohibit the use of federal funds to teach or advance concepts promoting gender ideology in K-12 schools.
- RSC Chairman August Pfluger's (R-TX) bill, the DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern Act, which would restrict funding to American institutions of higher education that maintain a relationship with a Chinese entity of concern or Confucius Institute.
- Rep. Chip Roy's (R-TX) bill, the Combatting Racist Teaching (CRT) in Schools Act, which would prohibit federal funds from going to any K-12 school or institution of higher education that promotes racist ideology such as CRT.
- Rep. Adrian Smith's (R-NE) bill, the Educational Choice for Children Act, which would promote school choice by providing a tax credit of up to \$5,000 to incentivize individuals to voluntarily contribute toward scholarship granting organizations. The Republicans' reconciliation legislation included a similar program.
- Rep. Greg Steube's (R-FL) bill, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, which would amend Title IX to clarify that K-12 schools and institutions of higher education that receive federal funding cannot permit biological males to participate in athletic programs or activities designated for women or girls.
- Rep. Tim Walberg's (R-MI) bill, the Parental Rights Over The Education and Care of Their (PROTECT) Kids Act, which would condition federal funds to public elementary and middle schools on them obtaining parental consent before changing a student's gender pronouns or preferred names on any school forms, or sex-based accommodations including locker rooms or bathrooms.
- The RSC Budget requires institutions of higher education to repay a percentage of graduates' debt if defaults are too high as a way of ensuring these schools have "skin in the game".
- The RSC Budget supports President Trump's Executive Order to wind down the Department of Education and return education policy to the States and local communities. The RSC Budget notes several bills that would further these goals, including:
  - Rep. Barry Moore's (R-AL) bill, which would abolish the Department of Education and direct Treasury to carry out a K-12 education block grant program to allocate grants to states in proportion to the aggregate amount

of federal individual income taxes paid by the state's residents relative to the total amount paid by residents of all the states.

- Rep. Andy Ogles' (R-TN) bill, the Make Education Great Again Act, which would authorize the Secretary of Education to: (1) review, amend, or rescind regulations and policies that limit parental rights or state and local control over education; (2) promote school choice policies such as education savings accounts, vouchers, and charter schools; (3) identify and reduce federal administrative burdens on states, school districts, and schools; and (4) protect parental rights by enhancing transparency regarding educational content, policies, and funding. The bill would also authorize the Secretary of Education to spend less than the total amounts appropriated for education programs, so long as such reductions do not violate statutory requirements for mandatory funding.
- Rep. David Rouzer's (R-NC) bill, the States' Education Reclamation Act, which would abolish the Department of Education and transfer certain Department of Education programs and activities to other agencies. The bill would also require Treasury to provide grants to states for K-12 and higher education purposes permitted by state law.
- The RSC Budget makes it unambiguously clear in federal law that the executive branch cannot unilaterally cancel federal student loan debt on a widespread basis, as the Biden Administration brazenly and illegally attempted to do. Conservatives understand that such radical debt cancellation schemes are costly, unfair, and illegal.

### **Protecting the Right to Work**

The RSC Budget advances workforce policies that safeguard the moral convictions of employers and employees from ideological overreach, protect the freedom and flexibility of Americans to work for themselves as independent contractors, preserve the franchise business model through which many Americans have become successful entrepreneurs and business owners, and ensure the retirement portfolios of hardworking Americans are not hijacked to advance a radical agenda that undermines their financial security. The RSC Budget also brings accountability to federally funded projects, the federal workforce, and labor unions.

### **Occupational Licensing Laws**

All levels of U.S. government should find ways to reduce the burden of occupational licensing requirements, which are often more about imposing barriers to entry than increasing safety. There is simply no justification for barbers and interior designers to face stricter licensing requirements than emergency medical technicians. These licensing requirements are especially burdensome to families of military servicemen and women,

who frequently move between states. Most of the military spouses that work in these fields need to be relicensed following reassignment. While the problem of onerous occupational licensing laws largely rests at the state level, the RSC Budget urges federal lawmakers to examine ways in which the federal government could respect states' rights and still facilitate the state-level adoption of policies that use less restrictive alternatives to occupational licensing.

The RSC Budget supports the following bills and policies:

- Rep. Rick Allen's (R-GA) bill, the Employee Rights Act, which would enact key conservative workforce policies, including guaranteeing workers the right to a secret ballot for labor union elections, allowing workers in right-to-work states to fully opt-out of labor union representation, and safeguarding independent contractors and the franchise business model.
- RSC Vice Chairman Ben Cline's (R-VA) bill, the No Union Time on the Taxpayer's Dime Act, which would prohibit the use of "official time" by federal employees engaging in labor union activities while the employee is supposed to be on duty and working on behalf of taxpayers. The bill would restore accountability to the federal workforce and ensure taxpayer dollars are used solely to serve the American people and not subsidize labor union interests.
- Rep. James Comer's (R-KY) bill, the Save Local Business Act, which would clarify the joint employer standard to provide certainty for small business owners and workers and protect the franchise business model.
- Rep. Glenn Grothman's (R-WI) bill, the FEHB Protection Act, which would build off the provisions in the 2025 reconciliation law to verify that a federal employee is eligible to add family members to their Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB). This bill would require OPM to establish a process to verify the validity of qualifying life events, conduct a comprehensive audit of family members covered under FEHB, and develop a process to remove ineligible individuals. A 2022 GAO study found ineligible FEHB enrollments cost \$1 billion annually.<sup>94</sup>
- Rep. Kevin Hern's (R-OK) bill, the American Franchise Act, which would clarify that franchisors are only "joint employers" if they possess and exercise substantial and immediate control over essential terms and conditions of employment, like hiring workers, firing workers, setting wages, and disciplinary action.
- Rep. Kevin Kiley's (R-CA) bill, the Modern Worker Empowerment Act, which would amend federal labor laws to protect independent contractors by establishing a clear and predictable standard to determine whether a worker is classified as an independent contractor or an employee.
- Rep. Kevin Kiley's (R-CA) bill, the Modern Worker Security Act, which would provide a safe harbor allowing businesses to voluntarily offer portable benefits to

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<sup>94</sup> <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-105222>

independent contractors without the risk of those workers being classified as employees under federal labor law.

- Rep. Tracey Mann's (R-KS) bill, the SHARE Act, which would improve the current licensing process for health care providers and increase the number of licensed providers able to serve communities across state lines.
- Rep. Bob Onder's (R-MO) bill, the Worker Enfranchisement Act, which would require at least a two-thirds quorum of eligible workers to participate in a unionization election for the election results to be deemed valid.
- Rep. Greg Steube's (R-FL) bill, the Restoring Biological Truth to the Workplace Act, which would clarify that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act protects employees against employer retaliation merely for expressing the binary and biological nature of sex. This legislation would also protect the right of employees to use single-sex bathrooms and changing areas in the workplace.
- The RSC Budget repeals the Davis Bacon Act, which requires federally funded construction projects to pay prevailing wages for the local area. This inflates the cost of federal projects and harms taxpayers.
- The RSC Budget eliminates project labor agreements (PLAs) for federally funded construction projects. PLAs prevent true competitive bidding and impose burdensome hiring and work rules that favor labor unions and discourage merit shops. This increases costs to taxpayers and directly drives up the costs of federal projects.

### **Deregulation and Government Efficiency**

The cost of federal regulations in 2022 under the Biden Administration was estimated to be \$1.939 trillion—amounting to 7.4 percent of GDP.<sup>95</sup> To contextualize, the total amount of individual income tax revenues for 2022 was \$2.263 trillion. Calculations from the America First Policy Institute show burdensome federal regulations accumulated since 1980 will lead to \$31.7 trillion less federal revenue due to loss of growth and \$460,000 in lost income for Americans per capita over the next ten years.<sup>96</sup>

President Trump led one of the most economically prosperous periods in American history by rolling back burdensome Obama-era regulations and setting limits on new regulations during his first term. For instance, the first Trump Administration reduced the number of federal advisory committees, strengthened reporting and transparency requirements for issuing major regulations, and eliminated more than five regulations for every new regulation issued. The second Trump Administration is building on that success by requiring ten rules, regulations, or guidance documents to be repealed for every new one

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<sup>95</sup> [https://cei.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/10K\\_Commandments.pdf](https://cei.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/10K_Commandments.pdf)

<sup>96</sup> <https://www.americafirstpolicy.com/issues/ofra-estimate-e2025009>

issued<sup>97</sup> and identifying any existing rules that exceed statutory authority, infringe constitutional limits, or impose unnecessary burdens.<sup>98</sup>

Now, building on these proven successes, President Trump and Congressional Republicans are once again leading the charge to restore America's economic dominance through principled conservative governance. The RSC Budget supports policies which increase government efficiency and eliminate excessive government regulations.

## **Fighting Fraud**

A disappointing consequence of the federal government spending so much on assistance programs is the inevitable fraud. This is an issue that was further exacerbated by the pandemic and the plethora of newly created aid programs related to it. In 2022, the Inspector General (IG) of the Department of Labor found massive levels of improper payments in the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) programs which provided expanded unemployment benefits during the pandemic.<sup>99</sup> This is unacceptable, and the RSC Budget applauds the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability for conducting needed oversight on this unprecedented mishandling of taxpayer dollars.<sup>100</sup>

These errors, waste, and fraud do not just cost taxpayers money; they divert resources away from those who need it most. With federal programs facing dire financial futures and more Americans receiving welfare than ever before, wasting money through fraud to appease bureaucrats is unsustainable and, more importantly, immoral. The RSC Budget supports utilizing the Social Security Administration (SSA) as a centralized database to determine the family status of welfare recipients. This would allow the IRS and the Department of Health and Human Services to cross-check the Social Security Number (SSN) of a welfare recipient against their claimed marital status and claimed dependents. The Republican reconciliation law took important steps to implement this by requiring a work-eligible Social Security Number for a taxpayer to claim specific tax credits. This will reduce fraud and unlawful payments.

Agencies can and should stringently verify and crosscheck the criteria for benefit eligibility, such as income, residency, identity, employment, citizenship status, and whether the

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<sup>97</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/01/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-launches-massive-10-to-1-deregulation-initiative/>

<sup>98</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/directing-the-repeal-of-unlawful-regulations/>

<sup>99</sup> <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Testimony-Turner-2022-03-17-REVISED.pdf>

<sup>100</sup> <https://oversight.house.gov/release/comer-opens-hearing-investigating-billions-lost-to-waste-fraud-and-abuse-in-pandemic-programs/>



recipient is already receiving benefits to ensure the applicant is eligible for the program. The agency should regularly conduct reviews of the beneficiary's eligibility information, including by cross-checking other government datasets. If the agency determines a beneficiary is no longer eligible, the beneficiary should be removed from the rolls, and the agency should refer those who knowingly break the law to law enforcement for criminal prosecution. These basic steps will help prevent rampant waste, fraud, and abuse across federal welfare programs.

Agencies must remember their mission is to reduce welfare dependency and move people to a meaningful life of self-sufficiency. Under no circumstances should success at a welfare agency be measured by how many can be kept on the rolls. Government employees should be held accountable for doing their jobs with appropriate diligence. The federal government should also reduce fraud in state-administered programs by incentivizing state agencies and attorneys general to investigate and prosecute welfare fraud. If states are allowed to retain a portion of the dollars recovered due to fraud and abuse, they will be more likely to crack down on it. Finally, Congress must ensure that those in the country illegally do not collect welfare benefits reserved for American citizens who did not break the law.

The RSC Budget supports the following bills and policies:

- RSC Messaging Task Force Chair Mark Alford's (R-MO) bill, the Returning SBA to Main Street Act, which would decentralize SBA by relocating 30 percent of SBA's Washington, D.C. headquarters to regional offices across the U.S.
- Rep. Aaron Bean's (R-FL) bill, the Delivering On Government Efficiency (DOGE) in Spending Act, which would require Treasury to describe any expenditure, link to the relevant budget account, and crosscheck the payment against government databases before the funding is spent to ensure accuracy and eligibility.
- Rep. Aaron Bean's (R-FL) bill, the Freedom from Government Competition Act, which would require the federal government to have a "yellow pages test." If a good or service can be found in the "yellow pages," the government should not be doing it.
- Rep. Stephanie Bice's (R-OK) bill, the Regulation Reduction Act, which would require government agencies to repeal three or more rules before issuing a new major rule which imposes a cost or responsibility on a nongovernmental person, a state government, or a local government.
- RSC Emerging Technology Task Force Chair Kat Cammack's (R-FL) bill, the Defund NPR Act, which would prohibit any direct or indirect federal funds to support National Public Radio (NPR), including dues or programming purchases.
- Rep. Michael Cloud's (R-TX) bill, the Dismantle DEI Act, which would repeal the statutory authorizations for every DEI program and office, define and prohibit DEI

practices, and extend these prohibitions to federal contracts, accreditations, and regulations.

- Rep. James Comer's (R-KY) bill, the SHOW UP Act, which would require executive agencies to return to the telework policies in place on December 31, 2019, and prohibit expansion of telework without certification from OPM.
- Rep. James Comer's (R-KY) bill, the Guidance Out Of Darkness (GOOD) Act, which would improve transparency for individuals and small businesses trying to understand agency regulation and guidance by requiring agencies to publish guidance documents on the date they are issued, in a single location, and clearly categorized.
- Rep. Monica De La Cruz's (R-TX) bill, the HUD Transparency Act, which would require the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) testify annually before Congress about efforts to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.
- Rep. Chuck Fleischmann's (R-TN) bill, the Bonuses for Cost-Cutters Act, which would expand the federal employee awards program for identifying fraud, waste, and mismanagement.
- Rep. Glenn Grothman's (R-WI) bill, the Safeguarding Benefits for Americans Act, which would strengthen social safety net programs and ensure their availability for U.S. citizens by preventing non-citizens from receiving federal welfare benefits, including Social Security and Medicare.
- Rep. Mike Haridopolos's bill (R-FL), the LEDGER Act, which would require every payment and disbursement made by Treasury to be logged with the date, amount spent, recipient, reason the payment was issued, and legal authority for the payment.
- Rep. Andy Harris' (R-MD) bill, which would require Congressional approval before the Comptroller General may bring civil action against the President for violations of the Impoundment Control Act.
- Rep. Jeff Hurd's (R-CO) bill, the HELP Act, which would exempt certain livestock hauling vehicles from regulations relating to house of service and electronic logging devices.
- Rep. Darrell Issa's (R-CA) bill, the Stop Ineffective Paper Straws (SIPS) Act, which would codify President Trump's action instructing agencies to procure and use straws with the "strength and durability of plastic straws," end the penalization for using plastic straws, and discourage the promotion of paper straws.<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>101</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/ending-procurement-and-forced-use-of-paper-straws/>

- Rep. Darrell Issa's (R-CA) bill, the Showerhead Freedom Act, which would codify President Trump's Executive Order repealing the Obama-Biden regulations limiting the amount of water per minute discharged by a showerhead.<sup>102</sup>
- Rep. Ronny Jackson's (R-TX) bill, the No Partisan Radio and Partisan Broadcasting Services (NPR and PBS) Act, which would eliminate all federal funding for NPR and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).
- Rep. Rich McCormick's (R-GA) bill, the Incentivize Savings Act, which would encourage federal agencies to save money by allowing an agency to keep 49 percent of unspent appropriated funds within a given timeframe, use 49 percent of unspent funds to pay down the national debt, and use 2 percent of unused funds for agency retention bonuses.
- Rep. Andy Ogles' (R-TN) bill, the End the Deep State Act, which would establish a new employment category of federal employees for career bureaucrats who served in positions of a "confidential, policy-determining, policymaking, or policy-advocating character." Employees in this category could be moved out of the role and replaced with other career employees who are more able or willing to faithfully implement government policy.
- Rep. Gary Palmer's (R-AL) bill, the Agency Accountability Act, which would require any agency that receives a fee, fine, penalty, or proceeds from a settlement to deposit the amount in the general fund of the Treasury.
- Rep. Pete Sessions' (R-TX) bill, the Regulations Evaluated to Determine the Anticipated Price and Effect Act (RED TAPE) Act, which would prohibit the use of non-monetary or unqualified factors when agencies produce the cost-benefit analysis for proposed regulations.
- Rep. Greg Steube's (R-FL) bill, the Valid Benefits Act, which would require federal agencies and departments to verify the eligibility of individuals 105 years of age or older before issuing federal benefits to the individual.
- Rep. Marlin Stutzman's (R-IN) bill, the Restoring Checks and Balances Act, which would: require rules issued by executive agencies to sunset after five years unless reauthorized by Congress; prohibit agencies from reissuing, enforcing, revising, or taking regulatory action on rules which have sunset; and require agencies seeking reauthorization to submit full justification, related rules, and congressional committee recommendations.
- RSC Budget and Spending Task Force Chair Beth Van Duyne's (R-TX) bill, the Agency Accountability and Cost Transparency Act, which would require federal agencies to confirm any new major regulations are budget neutral by publicly releasing an estimated cost and offsetting any costs from new regulations by repealing existing regulation(s).

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<sup>102</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/04/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-makes-americas-showers-great-again/>

- RSC Budget and Spending Task Force Chair Beth Van Duyne's (R-TX) bill, the REDUCE Act, which would require federal agencies to eliminate duplicative positions and limit new hires to one employee for every four employees who leave to streamline the federal workforce. The bill excludes roles in immigration, law enforcement, and public safety.
- RSC Budget and Spending Task Force Chair Beth Van Duyne's (R-TX) bill, the Small Business Regulatory Reduction Act, which would require all Small Business Administration (SBA) rulemaking to be cost-neutral and require an annual report to Congress on the regulatory costs imposed on small businesses by federal agency rules and regulation.
- RSC Budget and Spending Task Force Chair Beth Van Duyne's (R-TX) bill, the GORAC Act, which would require the Government Accountability Office to contract an independent auditor every 10 years to identify wasteful or outdated federal agency functions, with recommendations fast-tracked through Congress and all resulting savings applied directly to reducing the national debt.
- Rep. Roger Williams' (R-TX) bill, the Freedom to Compete Act, which would eliminate anti-competitive regulations in federal agencies to revitalize the U.S. economy and encourage innovation, by codifying President Trump's Executive Order "Reducing Anti-Competitive Regulatory Barriers."<sup>103</sup>

## **Budget Process Reform**

The federal budget process is certainly broken, but perhaps more disheartening is the reality that the federal government has simply abandoned any semblance of attempting to follow the budget process. The last time Congress enacted a budget and met all the appropriations deadlines on time was 1996. This sad reality begs many questions, but conversations regarding reforms to the budget process that make Congress and the President more accountable to the American taxpayer are of vital importance.

While it is challenging to predict what Congress will reauthorize or cut in a ten-year window, CBO scoring is fundamental in painting a picture of what lies ahead and greatly impacts policy decisions. Oftentimes, estimates are inaccurate, due to a confluence of economic events and congressional decisions.<sup>104</sup> The RSC Budget supports requiring the CBO to employ more precise macroeconomic predictions, integrate debt servicing expenses, employ fair value estimates for credit programs, and provide updated assessments more frequently.

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<sup>103</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/reducing-anti-competitive-regulatory-barriers/>

<sup>104</sup> <https://thefga.org/research/scoring-cbos-scores-ten-of-the-worst-cbo-blunders/>

Under current law, CBO's baseline spending projections automatically assume higher spending each year. The RSC Budget recommends the inflation-adjusted, pro-spending bias for discretionary spending be removed from the baseline. Further, the rules governing CBO require it to assume that expiring programs continue in the baseline. Similarly, CBO is required to assume entitlement programs continue to provide benefit payments at current levels even if the Trustees' report shows the trust fund would be depleted and benefit payments would be cut. These assumptions should be removed so the baseline shows the real current-law trajectory. Furthermore, CBO and JCT have failed to be transparent in their methodology and their modeling. The RSC Budget also requires these entities to publish the confidence intervals related to their findings.

The RSC Budget supports the following bills and policies:

- Rep. Andy Barr's (R-KY) bill, the CBO Scoring Accountability Act, which would require CBO to produce annual supplemental scores for major legislation for 10 years and report to Congress with an explanation for any errors greater than 10 percent in the initial score.
- Rep. Buddy Carter's (R-GA) bill, the HEALTH Panel Act, which would improve the accuracy of CBO's scores on health care-related bills by codifying the Panel of Health Advisors, establishing congressional appointment authority, and require an annual report to the Budget Committee detailing the panel's work and recommendations.
- Rep. Randy Feenstra's (R-IA) bill, the Save Our Seniors Act, which would require CBO's ten-year economic outline include a graph illustrating the outlook for the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund. Under current law, CBO is required to assume all Social Security payments will be paid in full, despite the impending insolvency of the OASI Trust Fund.
- Rep. Glenn Grothman's (R-WI) bill, the Stop Baseline Bloat Act, which would end the requirement that CBO assume discretionary spending, including one-time emergency spending, grows each year with inflation when calculating the baseline projection.
- Rep. Jay Obernolte's (R-CA) bill, the Preventive Health Savings Act, which would allow CBO to assess long-term budgetary savings from preventive health care legislation over a 30-year window, instead of the 10-year window currently required.

## Discretionary Funding

It is imperative that Congress bring down discretionary spending to pre-pandemic levels as a fundamental step toward restoring fiscal responsibility in the federal government. The COVID-19 pandemic is over and the emergency spending enacted during the pandemic must end. The current trajectory of federal spending represents an unsustainable burden on future generations and threatens the long-term economic stability of the United States. The passage of The Rescissions Act of 2025 was an excellent step towards fiscal responsibility, eliminating \$9 billion in funding previously appropriated in FY 2024 and FY 2025. While the challenges are significant, the constitutional duty of Congress to exercise responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars demands immediate and decisive action.

### **Discretionary Spending Percentage of Federal Outlays**

Proponents of unlimited government spending often use the excuse that discretionary spending represents approximately one-third of the federal government's annual outlays, therefore any discretionary funding cuts are merely a drop in the bucket compared to the federal deficit. They argue cutting discretionary spending is not worth the political capital or effort required. This is an absurd argument that fundamentally misunderstands both the constitutional role of Congress and the practical realities of fiscal reform.

Congress is granted the power of the purse by the Constitution, and discretionary spending is the direct outcome of that constitutional power. Unlike mandatory spending programs which operate on autopilot, discretionary spending requires annual congressional approval through the appropriations process. This makes it both the most direct expression of congressional priorities and the most immediately actionable area for fiscal reform. To argue that Congress should abdicate its responsibility over the one area of federal spending it directly controls each year is to argue for the abandonment of a core constitutional duty.

Furthermore, this argument ignores the cumulative impact of sustained discretionary spending discipline. Over a ten-year period, meaningful reductions in discretionary spending can generate hundreds of billions in savings while establishing precedent for broader fiscal responsibility. The fact that discretionary spending represents "only" one-third of federal outlays means it still constitutes over a trillion dollars annually.<sup>105</sup> This is hardly an insignificant amount by any reasonable measure.

The Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans are working diligently to increase federal revenues through pro-growth economic policies that expand the tax base and stimulate economic activity. Republicans have made meaningful progress in passing

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<sup>105</sup> <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61184>

the 2025 reconciliation law which cut over \$1.9 trillion in mandatory spending.<sup>106</sup> These efforts represent important steps toward comprehensive fiscal reform, but they cannot stand alone. Now Congress must take decisive control of the appropriations process and rein in discretionary spending to move towards fiscal responsibility. Only by addressing all components of federal spending—revenue enhancement through economic growth, mandatory spending reform, and discretionary spending discipline—can Congress hope to meaningfully address the nation's fiscal challenges.

## **Changing the Political Calculus on Spending**

One of the greatest obstacles to meaningful discretionary spending reform lies in the lobbying that has evolved around federal appropriations. Members of Congress often only support spending reductions that will not have any direct impact on their district or state. This leaves virtually every program in the federal government with a dedicated champion in Congress, making necessary discretionary spending cuts nearly impossible to achieve through the current political processes. Special interest groups have exploited this dynamic, spending millions of dollars each year flying constituents to Washington, D.C. to pitch Members of Congress on why their particular funding stream must be increased. These lobbying efforts present Members of Congress with a skewed perception where the concentrated benefits of specific programs are vigorously promoted while the diffuse costs of overall spending growth are ignored.

This lobbying pattern makes spending increases easy to achieve but spending decreases nearly impossible. Each program develops its own constituency, its own advocacy network, and its own political protection, regardless of its actual merit or effectiveness. This dynamic has contributed to the steady growth of discretionary spending over decades, as programs are added but rarely eliminated or meaningfully reduced.

However, this traditional political calculation which causes such strong resistance to spending cuts may no longer reflect electoral reality. The practice of "bringing home the bacon" to the district through federal appropriations does not have the electoral impact it previously commanded. As budget expert David Ditch highlights, "The increasing nationalization of politics means that many Americans are unaware of increases or decreases in federal aid to their area."<sup>107</sup> This reflects a fundamental shift in American political behavior. Voters increasingly make decisions based on national political brands, ideological alignment, and broad policy preferences rather than specific local benefits delivered by their representatives. The era when a well-timed federal grant or facility could

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<sup>106</sup> [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/MSR\\_2026.pdf#page=9](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/MSR_2026.pdf#page=9)

<sup>107</sup> <https://epicforamerica.org/federal-budget/welfare-for-states-refuting-bring-home-the-bacon-myths/>

swing an election has largely passed, replaced by a political environment where partisan identity and national issues dominate local considerations.

This shift creates both an opportunity and an obligation for conservatives. If the electoral benefits of federal spending have diminished while the fiscal costs continue to mount, the rational response is to prioritize sound fiscal policy over outdated political calculations. Members who courageously lead on spending discipline may find that their constituents appreciate fiscal responsibility more than they fear the loss of specific federal programs.

## **Federal Handouts to State Budgets**

The scope of federal overreach into state and local governance has expanded dramatically in recent decades, creating unhealthy dependencies that distort federalism and fiscal responsibility. In the last 23 years, federal aid to state and local governments has risen by an astronomical 137 percent, adjusted for inflation.<sup>108</sup> This dramatic increase represents a fundamental shift in the federal-state balance, with Washington increasingly assuming responsibilities that properly belong to state and local governments.

In FY 2022, 48 states reported budget surpluses,<sup>109</sup> largely thanks to the massive slush fund that Democrats provided to state governments through the American Rescue Plan Act.<sup>110</sup> This outcome reveals the perverse incentives created by federal overspending. States have become addicted to federal transfers rather than maintaining fiscal discipline and appropriate revenue structures to fund their own priorities. Meanwhile, as states enjoy artificial fiscal health propped up by federal transfers, the federal deficit continues to grow at an alarming rate. Federal discretionary spending should not be used to pad state budgets or substitute for responsible state-level fiscal policy. States are perfectly capable of funding their own priorities, and federal intervention only serves to obscure the true costs of government services while reducing accountability to taxpayers.

## **The Path Forward**

The RSC Budget calls for a practical and achievable framework for restoring discretionary spending discipline by implementing an annual four percent reduction in discretionary spending until pre-pandemic spending levels are reached. This approach recognizes the need for sustained, predictable reductions that allow agencies and program beneficiaries to adjust gradually while maintaining essential government functions. The four percent

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<sup>108</sup> <https://epicforamerica.org/federal-budget/welfare-for-states-unnecessary-unaffordable-federal-handouts/>

<sup>109</sup> <https://www.pew.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2024/09/03/number-of-states-with-annual-deficits-hit-record-low-in-fiscal-year-2022>

<sup>110</sup> <https://epicforamerica.org/federal-budget/epic-analysis-bidenomics-slush-fund-spending-through-september-2023/>



annual reduction target strikes an appropriate balance between fiscal necessity and practical implementation. Unlike dramatic across-the-board cuts that could disrupt essential services, this measured approach allows for strategic reductions that prioritize the most critical government functions while eliminating wasteful programs.

The RSC Budget highlights particularly egregious programs that should be severely cut or eliminated completely, providing Congress with specific targets for reform rather than vague aspirational goals. This approach recognizes that effective spending discipline requires detailed policy work, not just broad fiscal targets. Importantly, the RSC Budget maintains respect for the annual appropriations process, acknowledging the need for Congress to adjust spending in specific accounts to reflect current needs and changing circumstances. This balance between fiscal discipline and legislative flexibility is essential for sustainable reform. Congress must resist the temptation to exempt favored programs or to defer difficult decisions. The fiscal challenges facing the nation are too severe and the window for voluntary reform is too narrow to allow for continued delay.

Success will depend on several key factors. The Republican conference must maintain a unified commitment to spending discipline and effectively communicate the long-term benefits of fiscal responsibility to their constituents. Alternative approaches to addressing legitimate community needs without federal appropriations will also be critical. Congress must resist pressure from special interests and advocacy groups that will inevitably mobilize to protect their own preferred programs. This will require both strong backbone and effective counter-messaging that emphasizes the broader public interest in fiscal sustainability over the narrow programmatic benefits of excessive government spending.

Failure to act on discretionary spending reform will not only perpetuate unsustainable fiscal trajectories but will also represent a fundamental abdication of congressional responsibility. The American people deserve representatives who are willing to make hard choices in service of long-term national prosperity rather than short-term political convenience. The time for half-measures and symbolic gestures has passed. Congress must seize this opportunity to demonstrate that constitutional government and fiscal responsibility remain viable. The restoration of discretionary spending discipline represents both a test of congressional resolve and a necessary foundation for broader fiscal reform. The nation's fiscal future depends on Congress rising to meet this challenge with the seriousness and determination it demands.

## **Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration**

### **Reduce Funding for the Food and Nutrition Service**

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) oversees administration of SNAP, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), The Emergency Assistance Food Program (TEFAP), and other food distribution programs. Funding should be reduced to bring down administrative overhead. DOGE terminated multiple wasteful leases under FNS and found FNS wasted \$265,000 in taxpayer dollars on a leadership retreat in Atlanta.<sup>111</sup> Funding for wasteful grant programs, such as “Supporting the Use of Traditional Indigenous Foods in the Child Nutrition Programs Cooperative Agreement” which gave out \$2 million in grants to “provide training and technical assistance to school nutrition professionals on procurement, preparation, and crediting of traditional Indigenous foods,” should also be eliminated.<sup>112</sup> FNS should focus on administering food aid to those truly in need in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible.

### **Reduce Funding for the Rural Water and Wastewater Program Account**

The Rural Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant program provides funding for sewage and sanitation services in select local communities. These projects are better handled by the private sector or local and state governments. The RSC Budget calls for funding in this account to be reduced gradually to transition projects away from the federal government to state, local, and private funding.

### **Reduce Funding for the Rural Business Cooperative Service**

The Rural Business Cooperative Service subsidizes private sector lending for training and resources to individuals in rural areas to grow businesses and the local economy. This funding is duplicative of federal dollars that are already dedicated to investments in rural economies.

### **Reduce Funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program**

The McGovern-Dole program provides donations of agriculture commodities produced in the U.S. to developing nations. There is little evidence this program reduces food insecurity, and importing free U.S.-produced food undercuts farmers in the developing nations the program is trying to serve. President Trump’s FY 2026 Budget Proposal eliminates this

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<sup>111</sup> <https://x.com/DOGE/status/1892825640727929077>

<sup>112</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/grant/cn-supporting-indigenous-foods-cooperative-agreement>

program, as the program accounted for 0.01 percent of all U.S. crop sales in 2023 while undercutting commodity prices in markets abroad.<sup>113</sup>

### **Eliminate Food for Peace**

Food for Peace Title II Grants are funded through USDA and administered by USAID. This program undermines local markets in foreign countries, is inefficient, and loses approximately one-third of the food shipped overseas due to delays and mismanagement. President Trump's FY 2026 Budget Proposal eliminates this program.<sup>114</sup>

### **Reduce Funding for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture**

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provides grants for conducting research on agricultural science and technologies. Many of these grants go to universities promoting progressive ideologies, such as funding for diversifying the WIC workforce, promoting DEI and renewable energy, and urban agriculture projects.<sup>115</sup> These wasteful grants should not be funded with taxpayer dollars.

### **Reduce Funding for the Office of the Under Secretary of Farm Production and Conservation**

The Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) is overfunded and can dramatically reduce its administrative costs and workforce. The Trump Administration is actively working to increase efficiencies at FPAC and streamline services to better assist farmers.<sup>116</sup>

### **Eliminate Funding for Climate Hubs**

Climate Hubs were created during the Obama Administration to "help support agricultural producers and rural communities to make climate-informed decisions."<sup>117</sup> This program has ballooned from 10 regional hubs to over 120 climate researchers, including an International Climate Hub, pushing progressive ideology. The RSC Budget eliminates funding for this bureaucratic program.

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<sup>113</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=36>

<sup>114</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=5>

<sup>115</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=33>

<sup>116</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=35>

<sup>117</sup> <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2024/02/05/usda-celebrates-10-years-climate-hubs-biden-harris-administration-leads-historic-climate-agenda>

## **Commerce, Justice, Science**

### **Reduce Funding for the Economic Development Agency**

The Economic Development Agency (EDA) is a federal program that subsidizes private companies. Local economic development is best handled at the state and local levels. Much of the funding distributed by EDA is also duplicative of other federal programs and should be eliminated. Further, EDA projects have prioritized racial equality, radical climate agendas, and woke ideology, such as funding the construction of a “pride plaza” in Portland, Oregon. The President’s FY 2026 Budget Proposal reduces funding for EDA.<sup>118</sup>

### **Eliminate the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership**

The Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) provides financial support to local centers offering technical support to small manufacturing companies. This program was designed to be self-sustaining but is instead completely dependent on federal funding. The goals of this program are best accomplished at the state and local levels.

### **Eliminate the Legal Services Corporation**

The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) has used taxpayer funds to advocate for liberal political causes and lobbying. LSC provided grants to advocacy groups for expanding abortion access, social and environmental justice, allowing illegal aliens to vote, opposing the work of ICE, and fighting capitalism.<sup>119</sup> In addition to this gross misuse of taxpayer funds, many LSC programs are already offered at the state level. The RSC Budget eliminates LSC. President Trump also eliminated LSC in his FY 2026 Budget Proposal.<sup>120</sup>

### **Reduce Funding for the International Trade Administration**

The International Trade Administration (ITA) provides export assistance to private companies. This is duplicative with services already available from private entities. Further, ITA has used taxpayer funds to implement radical climate change policies, including

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<sup>118</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=26>

<sup>119</sup> <http://capitalresearch.org/article/the-legal-services-corporation-part-4/>

<sup>120</sup> <https://www.lsc.gov/press-release/white-house-budget-proposes-eliminating-lsc-defunding-civil-legal-aid-millions-low-income-americans>

creating a “Clean Technologies Export Competitiveness Strategy.”<sup>121</sup> The President’s FY 2026 Budget Request reduced funding for ITA.<sup>122</sup>

### **Reduce Funding for the National Science Foundation**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is meant to promote scientific research that betters the nation’s health and prosperity. Instead, NSF uses taxpayer funds to advance a DEI agenda. One study found that, “As of 2020, 30.4% of all grants had one of the following politicized terms: “equity,” “diversity,” “inclusion,” “gender,” “marginalize,” “underrepresented,” or “disparity.””<sup>123</sup> This is up from 2.9% in 1990. Funding for the NSF should be reduced. In particular, NSF’s U.S. Global Change Research program and Clean Energy Technology program should be eliminated. The President’s FY 2026 Budget Request reduced funding for NSF.<sup>124</sup>

### **Eliminate Funding for Select National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Grants**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Grants and Education programs have been used to advance a radical climate agenda, funded illegal DEI policies, climate policies, and provided subsidies for inefficient and unreliable wind energy projects. The President’s FY 2026 Budget Request reduced funding for NOAA<sup>125</sup> and the RSC Budget eliminates grants which promote climate alarmism.

### **Reduce Funding for the Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

DOJ’s Environmental and Natural Resources Division has been linked with the practice of sue-and-settle to reward special interests. This division also developed the DOJ’s discriminatory environmental justice strategy. Taxpayer funds should not be used to further the environmental ‘justice’ agenda. The President’s FY 2026 Budget Proposal reduces funding for this division.<sup>126</sup>

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<sup>121</sup> <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/08/30/2021-18637/request-for-comments-on-us-clean-technologies-export-competitiveness-strategy>

<sup>122</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=27>

<sup>123</sup> <https://www.cspicenter.com/p/increasing-politicization-and-homogeneity-in-scientific-funding-an-analysis-of-nsf-grants-1990-2020>

<sup>124</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=40>

<sup>125</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=26>

<sup>126</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=22>

## **Eliminate the Community Relations Services Program**

DOJ's Community Relations Services Program attempts to act as "peacemaker" in local disputes. The Biden Administration used it to push woke gender and CRT ideology. This program does not align with DOJ's core purpose to investigate and prosecute violations of federal law. The RSC Budget eliminates this program to ensure DOJ funding focuses on its actual mission.

## **Eliminate Funding for the Bureau of Economic Analysis**

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) is a federal statistical agency which provides economic accounts data and indicators such as the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) and consumer spending numbers. The Trump Administration disbanded the Bureau of Economic Analysis Advisory Committee in March 2025.<sup>127</sup> The RSC Budget merges BEA with other statistical agencies to increase efficiency.

## **Reduce Funding for the Census Bureau**

The Census Bureau's core mission is to conduct a census every 10 years, but it has grown to include the economic census and other activities outside its core function. The RSC Budget merges the Census Bureau with other statistical agencies to increase efficiency. Such reforms are particularly warranted given concerns the Bureau made significant errors in the 2020 Census that resulted in incorrect Congressional apportionments.<sup>128</sup>

## **Reduce Funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology**

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) promotes U.S. innovation and competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and best practices. NIST is overfunded and its functions should be consolidated. Under the Biden Administration, NIST imposed divisive and unauthorized social policy requirements on applicants to receive CHIPS funds, such as DEI and environmental requirements. NIST has also pushed a radical climate agenda and the President's FY 2026 Budget Proposal reduces funding for NIST.<sup>129</sup>

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<sup>127</sup> <https://www.marketplace.org/story/2025/03/05/advisory-committees-economic-data-commerce-department-bureau-of-labor-statistics>

<sup>128</sup> <https://www.heritage.org/election-integrity/commentary/republicans-can-thank-the-federal-govs-bungled-census-their-razor>

<sup>129</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=27>

## **Reduce Funding for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is an independent federal agency that enforces laws against workplace discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of race and sex. A reduction in funding is warranted given the EEOC's controversial and potentially illegal weaponization of civil rights law under the Biden Administration, including attempting to force private sector employers to grant accommodations for employees to get an abortion,<sup>130</sup> and forcing employers to let biologically male employees access sensitive facilities that are meant for female employees, including bathrooms.<sup>131</sup>

## **Eliminate the Marine Mammal Commission**

The Marine Mammal Commission (MMC) is an independent government agency authorized by the Marine Mammal Protection Act to support the conservation of marine mammals. Many of the activities carried out by MMC could be performed by other federal agencies, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The RSC Budget eliminates funding for MMC and the President's FY 2026 Budget Proposal also consolidates this program.<sup>132</sup>

## **Defense**

The defense of our nation stands as one of the most sacred obligations of the federal government. It is a constitutional mandate that transcends political divisions and partisan considerations. Every day the brave men and women in uniform answer this call to service, placing themselves in harm's way to protect the freedoms and values that define America. Their sacrifice demands nothing less than our unwavering commitment in providing them with the resources, equipment, and support necessary to carry out their mission effectively.

## **Reject False Equivalencies in Discretionary Spending**

The practice of linking defense and non-defense spending through artificial parity requirements is a fundamental misunderstanding of federal priorities and the constitutional responsibilities of Congress. National security is not a bargaining chip to be traded against funding for domestic spending programs. The security of our homeland, the protection of U.S. citizens, and the preservation of the American way of life cannot be subjected to the

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<sup>130</sup> <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2024-07527.pdf>

<sup>131</sup> <https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/enforcement-guidance-harassment-workplace>

<sup>132</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=32>

same budgetary calculations as discretionary programs, which often duplicate efforts already undertaken by state and local governments.

The federal government bears ultimate responsibility for national defense, as explicitly outlined in the Constitution,<sup>133</sup> while many nondefense discretionary programs address concerns that are better handled at the state and local level. State and local governments are often better positioned to understand local needs, respond with agility to community challenges, and implement solutions that reflect the unique character of their regions. The RSC Budget rejects the longstanding practice in Washington, D.C. of seeking “parity” between defense and nondefense discretionary spending levels.

### **End Bureaucratic Bloat**

The RSC Budget supports Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth’s strategy for strengthening the military through financial reforms at the Pentagon, emphasizing transparency with taxpayers while building the most powerful military on the planet. Secretary Hegseth has outlined three areas to reform the Pentagon’s finances:

- Tackling waste, fraud, and abuse through addressing redundancies and ending programs that are not part of the Department’s core mission;
- Refocusing funding from nonlethal programs to programs that actually support the national defense mission; and
- Reviewing the Department’s hiring practices, particularly for its probationary workforce, and ensuring promotions are based on merit.<sup>134</sup>

Secretary Hegseth's initiatives represent a vital refocusing of our nation's military priorities toward core readiness and operational effectiveness. Every dollar allocated to national defense must be utilized strategically to ensure resources directly support our defense capabilities and mission readiness rather than expanding administrative overhead. This targeted approach to budget reallocation will help ensure taxpayer funds are invested in the military capabilities essential to protecting American interests and maintaining global deterrence.

### **Eliminate Redundant Programs**

The RSC Budget removes programs that are duplicative of the work done in other agencies out of Defense appropriations. For example, the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) is largely duplicative of research conducted at the Department

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<sup>133</sup> <https://www.heritage.org/military-strength/topical-essays/understanding-the-defense>

<sup>134</sup> <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4072698/hegseth-addresses-strengthening-military-by-cutting-excess-refocusing-dod-budget/>



of Health and Human Services (HHS). The RSC Budget moves CDMRP research to HHS and eliminates any funding overlap between ongoing HHS research and CDMRP research.

Our servicemembers deserve a defense establishment that prioritizes their needs over institutional inertia, invests in cutting-edge technologies rather than outdated systems, and maintains the strategic focus necessary to address emerging threats in an increasingly complex global environment. A strong defense is the foundation upon which all other American achievements rest. By demanding excellence in defense spending, eliminating waste, and maintaining our focus on core military capabilities, we honor both our constitutional obligations and the sacrifice of those who defend our nation. The security of America is not negotiable. It is our most fundamental responsibility, and it deserves our most thoughtful stewardship of resources and our most resolute commitment to excellence.

## **Energy and Water Development**

### **Eliminate the Office of Energy Justice and Equity**

The Office of Energy Justice and Equity, formerly the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, implemented the Biden Administration's Justice40 initiative, which exploited disadvantaged communities to subsidize "green" special interests with taxpayer dollars. President Trump is working to eliminate this office as part the "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing" action.<sup>135</sup> The RSC Budget eliminates the Office.

### **Eliminate the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations**

The Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations was established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to "deliver clean energy demonstration projects at scale in partnership with the private sector to accelerate deployment, market adoption, and the equitable transition to a decarbonized energy system."<sup>136</sup> Taxpayer dollars should not be used to subsidize private sector investments in politically favored energy technologies or to advance the radical "decarbonization" agenda.

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<sup>135</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-radical-and-wasteful-government-dei-programs-and-preferencing/>

<sup>136</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/technologytransitions/articles/doe-announces-186-million-three-national-lab-led-projects-facilitate>

## **Eliminate the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) funds applied research and development projects to advance renewable energy. This wastes taxpayer funds on inefficient, unreasonably expensive energy research. The President's FY 2026 Budget Request refocuses EERE funding to early-stage research that furthers reliable energy needs, instead of regulations that harm Americans like banning gas stoves and incandescent light bulbs.<sup>137</sup>

## **Eliminate the Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy**

The Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy (ARPA-E) was created in 2009 and uses taxpayer funds for high-risk green energy projects. There have been concerns that much of ARPA-E funding goes towards applied research, which can be carried out by the private sector, instead of basic research. The President's FY 2026 Budget Request eliminates funding for Green New Scam research previously conducted under ARPA-E, such as virtual reality experiences to replace flight travel.<sup>138</sup>

## **Eliminate the Federal Energy Management Program**

The Federal Energy Management (FEM) Program within the Department of Energy subsidizes renovation at federal buildings to promote energy efficiency but is being used to advance an unrealistic 'net-zero' agenda. The Biden Administration touted this would save taxpayers \$41 million but spent \$250 million on these wasteful projects.<sup>139</sup> The RSC Budget eliminates this program.

## **Eliminate the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan Program**

The Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing (ATVM) Loan Program provides subsidies to vehicle manufacturing companies to produce 'greener' cars. The IIJA and IRA exponentially expanded this program by removing the \$25 billion cap on ATVM loans, providing a \$3 billion credit subsidy for these loans, and expanding eligibility to heavy-duty vehicles, trains, maritime vessels, and aircrafts.<sup>140</sup> This is a waste of taxpayer money on ideological climate projects that should be handled solely by the private sector.

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<sup>137</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=23>

<sup>138</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=24>

<sup>139</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/femp/articles/historic-funding-effort-aims-improve-energy-efficiency-federal-government>

<sup>140</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/lpo/advanced-technology-vehicles-manufacturing-loan-program-0>

## **Reduce Funding for the Biological Environmental Research Program**

The Department of Energy's Biological Environmental Research Program is duplicative of private sector efforts and has expanded far beyond its scope of research. Program funding should be reduced and focused on the program's primary responsibility of foundational research, not focusing federal dollars on furthering ideological climate objectives through biased research.

## **Eliminate the Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program**

The Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program provides loans to green energy projects. This is the program that gave us the Solyndra scandal where taxpayers lost more than \$500 million after the Obama Administration gambled on a politically favored company. The IIJA and IRA further expanded this corrupt program.<sup>141</sup> The RSC Budget eliminates this program.

## **Eliminate the State and Community Energy Programs**

The Department of Energy's State and Community Energy Programs carry out wasteful subsidy and grant programs, such as weatherization grants and home energy efficiency rebates.<sup>142</sup> These programs are better addressed at the state and local level.

## **Financial Services and General Government**

### **Eliminate the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund**

The Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund promotes economic revitalization and community development. This is better handled by the private sector at the local level. President Trump ordered the CDFI Fund be eliminated "to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law"<sup>143</sup> and hundreds of CDFI external contracts are under review by DOGE.<sup>144</sup> The President's FY 2026 Budget Request eliminated CDFI Fund awards, which were used to further divisive racial and climate ideology under the Biden Administration.<sup>145</sup>

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<sup>141</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/lpo/title-17-energy-financing>

<sup>142</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/scep/office-state-and-community-energy-programs>

<sup>143</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/continuing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/>

<sup>144</sup> <https://bankingjournal.aba.com/2025/02/doge-recommends-terminating-cdfi-fund-contracts/>

<sup>145</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=37>

## **Eliminate the Technology Modernization Fund**

The General Services Administration's Technology Modernization Fund (TMF) is a full cost recovery fund financing the transition of IT systems for federal agencies to modern IT platforms. This fund allows agencies to finance IT projects outside of the annual appropriations process and without requesting funding support from Congress. The President's FY 2026 Budget Request proposes using unobligated balances of expired discretionary funds to support TMF, rather than new appropriations.<sup>146</sup>

## **Reduce Funding for the Consumer Product Safety Commission**

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is an independent agency with the goal of promoting consumer safety through addressing 'unreasonable risks' of injury, developing uniform safety standards, and conducting research on product-related injury and illnesses. CPSC was weaponized under the Biden Administration to advance a radical climate agenda, including advancing the attempt to ban gas stoves.<sup>147</sup> The RSC Budget reduces funding for CPSC to ensure the Commission focuses on genuine consumer safety concerns, not radical climate ideology.

## **Reduce Funding for the Federal Trade Commission**

The Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) mission is to enforce federal antitrust and consumer protection laws. Under the Biden Administration, the FTC was weaponized to harass businesses, push woke business policies, and prevent business mergers.<sup>148</sup> The RSC Budget reduces FTC funding to focus on a reasonable and measured approach to business.

## **Reduce Funding for the Securities and Exchange Commission**

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) pursued a radical agenda under the Biden Administration, including pushing an illegal, burdensome, and costly climate disclosure proposal onto businesses, forcing companies to disclose detailed information about carbon emissions throughout their supply chain.<sup>149</sup> Congress did not authorize the SEC to act as a climate regulator. While President Trump is reversing course on the Biden Administration's climate-focused policies, the RSC Budget reduces funding to limit SEC overreach.

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<sup>146</sup> [https://www.gsa.gov/system/files?file=GSA-FY2026-Congressional-Justification\\_508-Compliant.pdf](https://www.gsa.gov/system/files?file=GSA-FY2026-Congressional-Justification_508-Compliant.pdf)

<sup>147</sup> <https://www.cpsc.gov/About-CPSC/Commissioner/Richard-Trumka/Statement/CPSC-Approves-Request-for-Information-on-Gas-Stove-Hazards-and-Potential-Solutions>

<sup>148</sup> <https://fitzgerald.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/fitzgerald.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/23.07.28-letter-to-chair-khan-re-unsuccessful-merger-challenges90.pdf>

<sup>149</sup> <https://www.sec.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024-31>

## **Eliminate the Election Assistance Commission**

The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) helps election officials administer and voters participate in elections. EAC was created by the Help America Vote Act of 2002, which authorized \$10 million annually for EAC from FY 2003 through FY 2005.<sup>150</sup> Since then, EAC has continued to operate without renewed authorization and its annual appropriation has ballooned to \$27.72 million in FY 2024.<sup>151</sup> The RSC Budget would relocate any relevant work being conducted by EAC to the Federal Election Commission and subsequently eliminate EAC.

## **Reduce Funding for the Federal Election Commission**

The Biden Administration weaponized the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to harass and intimidate Americans participating in the democratic process, such as launching a four-year investigation into a citizen for spending \$483 on Facebook ads supporting President Trump.<sup>152</sup> The RSC Budget reduces FEC funding to ensure overzealous enforcement of campaign finance law does not chill free speech rights or Americans' participation in elections.

## **Eliminate the Federal Insurance Office**

The McCarran-Ferguson Act, passed by Congress in 1945, grants states' regulatory authority over the insurance industry.<sup>153</sup> However, the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act violated the McCarran-Ferguson Act by creating the Federal Insurance Office (FIO) as a subsidiary of Treasury to "monitor" all aspects of the insurance sector. The Biden Administration weaponized FIO to burden businesses with data collection requirements and to advance a radical climate agenda.<sup>154</sup> The RSC Budget eliminates FIO to return regulatory authority over the insurance industry back to the states where it belongs.

## **Reduce Funding for the Federal Labor Relations Authority**

The Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) arbitrates labor disputes between federal employees, departments, agencies, and federal unions. President Trump issued an Executive Order on March 27, 2025 to exclude a large portion of the federal government

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<sup>150</sup> [https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/eac\\_assets/1/6/HAVA41.PDF#page=13](https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/eac_assets/1/6/HAVA41.PDF#page=13)

<sup>151</sup> <https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20240318/Division%20B%20FSGG.pdf#page=29>

<sup>152</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/118/meeting/house/116301/witnesses/HHRG-118-HA00-Wstate-TrainorJ-20230920.pdf>

<sup>153</sup> <https://downing.house.gov/media/press-releases/downing-introduces-federal-insurance-office-elimination-act>

<sup>154</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1579>

from the FLRA requirements of collective bargaining with employee unions.<sup>155</sup> The RSC Budget reduces funding for this agency to further promote government efficiencies and protect taxpayers from wasteful labor disputes.

### **Eliminate the Entrepreneurial Development Program**

The Small Business Administration's Entrepreneurial Development Program risks taxpayer money by picking winners and losers in the marketplace. The RSC Budget enables small businesses to thrive without being dependent on the government by reducing burdensome regulations which increase compliance costs for small businesses. The Republican reconciliation law also helps small businesses to succeed by making the small business tax deduction permanent. The President's FY 2026 Budget Request eliminates 15 of SBA's Entrepreneurial Development Programs.<sup>156</sup>

### **Eliminate the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Fund**

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Fund provides merit-based awards to college students who plan to pursue careers in public service. However, there are concerning reports this Fund is biased against conservatives and unfairly favors liberal candidates.<sup>157</sup>

### **Reduce Funding for the Community Development Revolving Loan Fund**

The Community Development Revolving Loan Fund provides grants and loans to credit unions that primarily serve low-income individuals. The federal government should not be risking taxpayer money to stimulate monetary activity among financial institutions serving low-income individuals, who may have higher credit risk. This is a role better filled by the private sector.

## **Homeland Security**

### **Eliminate the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program**

The Citizenship and Integration Grant Program within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was created in 2009 to fund organizations that "prepare immigrants for

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<sup>155</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/exclusions-from-federal-labor-management-relations-programs/>

<sup>156</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=41>

<sup>157</sup> <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2024/05/22/republicans-allege-truman-scholarship-favors-liberals>

naturalization and promote civic integration.”<sup>158</sup> Instead, this program provides grants for free legal services and deportation defense to illegal aliens. The RSC Budget eliminates this Program to stop taxpayer dollars subsidizing activities that defy U.S. immigration law.

### **Eliminate Biden-Era Alternative to Detention Programs**

The Biden Administration created two new Alternative to Detention (ATD) programs: the Case Management Pilot Program and the Young Adult Case Management Program. These two programs focus on providing social services to aliens instead of compliance with their court proceedings. Further, a nonprofit organization which called for eliminating ICE was designated to oversee the Case Management Pilot Program during the Biden Administration.<sup>159</sup>

### **Restrict and Reduce Funding for FEMA Shelter and Services Program**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has shown a shocking lack of competence in dealing with recent disasters, leading President Trump to take action assessing the adequacy of FEMA.<sup>160</sup> FEMA officials instructed workers to skip houses with Trump campaign signs when providing assistance after Hurricane Milton. FEMA's administrative costs have also doubled in the past decade, while disaster response effectiveness remains stagnant.<sup>161</sup> FEMA's Shelter and Services Program provides funding to nonprofits to provide social services and housing to illegal aliens at the expense of American taxpayers.<sup>162</sup> The RSC Budget restricts FEMA funding to focus on assistance for American citizens during emergencies, rather than illegal aliens, and limits administrative costs.

## **Interior, Environment**

### **Reduce Funding for the Environmental Protection Agency**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has committed egregious overreach through promulgating burdensome regulations that hurt American taxpayers and American businesses. The Trump Administration has already cancelled \$2 billion in DEI and

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<sup>158</sup> <https://www.uscis.gov/archive/fiscal-year-2024-citizenship-and-integration-grant-program>

<sup>159</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/nonprofit-backs-defunding-ice-oversee-dhs-pilot-program-aiding-illegal-immigrants>

<sup>160</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/council-to-assess-the-federal-emergency-management-agency/>

<sup>161</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF12834>

<sup>162</sup> <https://www.dhs.gov/archive/news/2024/08/28/departments-homeland-security-announces-380-million-additional-funding-communities>

Environmental Justice grants in collaboration with DOGE.<sup>163</sup> The RSC Budget further reduces EPA funding to ensure it focuses only on legitimate environmental concerns, not climate alarmism.

### **Reduce Funding for EPA Research and Development**

The RSC Budget requires EPA Research and Development (R&D) funding only be allocated to basic and early-stage R&D projects—not applied research projects that are being undertaken by the private sector. Taxpayer money should not be wasted on subsidizing research of mature green energy projects. President Trump’s FY 2026 Budget Request reduced funding for EPA R&D, citing its previous woke climate research and radical environmental justice work.<sup>164</sup>

### **Eliminate the Integrated Environmental Strategies Program**

The Integrated Environmental Strategies Program assists developing countries in identifying and quantifying the benefits of clean energy. The program promotes a radical green agenda overseas. The RSC Budget eliminates this program to prevent taxpayer dollars from being used to promote expensive and inefficient energy sources abroad.

### **Eliminate the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program**

The Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) requires reporting of greenhouse gas (GHG) data and other relevant information from large GHG emission sources. This program is onerous and wasteful, and the RSC Budget eliminates it.

### **Eliminate Funding for the Global Methane Initiative**

The Global Methane Initiative is a U.N.-affiliated, international partnership that brings together countries to collaborate on efforts to reduce methane emissions and promote a radical climate agenda. The RSC Budget eliminates U.S. contributions to this initiative.

### **Eliminate the Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool**

The Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT) helps water and wastewater utilities to assess the risks of potential climate change impacts on their assets, operations,

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<sup>163</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-lee-zeldin-cancels-400-grants-4th-round-cuts-doge-saving-americans>

<sup>164</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=17>



and missions. This program instead promotes radical climate ideology and wastes taxpayer funds. The RSC Budget eliminates this program.

### **Eliminate the Green Infrastructure Program**

The Green Infrastructure Program is designed to help promote green infrastructure in communities. In practice, it wastes taxpayer funds on inefficient and unnecessary programs. The RSC Budget eliminates funding for this program.

### **Eliminate the Climate Resiliency Water Utilities Initiative**

The Climate Resiliency Water Utilities Initiative provides drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities with practical tools, training, and technical assistance to increase system resilience to climate change impacts. This program is duplicative of other federal grant programs and promotes biased climate ideology.

### **Eliminate Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Grants**

The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program provides grants to projects that are designed to reduce emissions from diesel engines. Grants under this program have gone to wasteful projects involving cherry pickers, electrifying parking spaces at rest stops, and retrofitting old tractors. The President's FY 2026 Budget Request eliminates this grant program.<sup>165</sup>

### **Eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts**

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is intended to provide funding to support arts education, celebrate the Nation's cultural heritage, and promote access to the arts across the U.S. Instead, NEA funding has been funneled to ideological pet projects and organizations, such as funding the National Queer Arts Festival,<sup>166</sup> an "Intergenerational Queer Audio Project" at the Oregon Children's Theater Company,<sup>167</sup> and the "Criminal Queerness Festival" at the National Queer Theater.<sup>168</sup> NEA also administered the DEI

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<sup>165</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=18>

<sup>166</sup> [https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/Spring2023\\_DisciplineListReport\\_05.23.23.pdf#page=110](https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/Spring2023_DisciplineListReport_05.23.23.pdf#page=110)

<sup>167</sup> [https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/Spring2023\\_DisciplineListReport\\_05.23.23.pdf#page=94](https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/Spring2023_DisciplineListReport_05.23.23.pdf#page=94)

<sup>168</sup> [https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/Spring2023\\_DisciplineListReport\\_05.23.23.pdf#page=123](https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/Spring2023_DisciplineListReport_05.23.23.pdf#page=123)

"Challenge America" grant program, which thankfully has been paused under President Trump. The President's FY 2026 Budget Request eliminates NEA.<sup>169</sup>

### **Eliminate the National Endowment for the Humanities**

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is supposed to support cultural infrastructure projects, education programs, and advance scholarly research as well as provide resources for exhibitions, documentaries, and the preservation of historic collections. NEH funding has instead been funneled to progressive pet projects and organizations, such as funding "an interpretive plan for an exhibition on LGBTQ+ history and culture in rural Illinois"<sup>170</sup> and funding a book "that explores the race, class, and gender dynamics within an African American hair braiding salon in Las Vegas."<sup>171</sup> The President's FY 2026 Budget Request eliminates NEH.<sup>172</sup>

### **Reduce Funding for the Smithsonian Institute**

The Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research center. It is paid for, and meant to be enjoyed by, all Americans regardless of their political beliefs. Unfortunately, in recent years the Smithsonian has increasingly used taxpayer funding to promote a divisive ideological agenda. For example, pro-life students visiting the museum in 2023 were subject to harassment by Smithsonian staff and threatened with expulsion from the museum unless they removed their hats which read "Rosary PRO-LIFE."<sup>173</sup> Additionally, the Smithsonian's African American History Museum published guidance in 2020, during the height of the George Floyd riots, listing off assumptions about "white culture," which included individualism, the nuclear family, and power as elements of "whiteness."<sup>174</sup> President Trump issued an Executive Order to end the divisive, race-centered ideology that has taken over the Smithsonian Institution.<sup>175</sup> The RSC Budget reduces funding for the Smithsonian until it implements all the directives of the President.

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<sup>169</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=42>

<sup>170</sup> [https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/NEH%20grant%20awards%20January%202025\\_0.pdf#page=15](https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/NEH%20grant%20awards%20January%202025_0.pdf#page=15)

<sup>171</sup> [https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/NEH%20grant%20awards%20January%202025\\_0.pdf#page=11](https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/NEH%20grant%20awards%20January%202025_0.pdf#page=11)

<sup>172</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=42>

<sup>173</sup> <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/catholic-school-students-kicked-out-of-smithsonian-museum-in-dc-over-pro-life-beanies>

<sup>174</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/us/dc-museum-graphic-whiteness-race>

<sup>175</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/restoring-truth-and-sanity-to-american-history/>

## **Eliminate Federal Funding for the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Grant Program**

The National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Grant program provides funding to organizations that perform, exhibit, and present art in D.C. Funding for this program only supports local D.C. interests and is not a prudent use of taxpayer funds. D.C. has its own budget which it can use for this, or a similar program should it so desire.

## **Eliminate Federal Funding for the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars**

The Wilson Center was created by the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Act of 1968 to serve as a nonpartisan policy forum and independent research institution. Roughly one-third of its annual budget comes from congressional appropriations, the rest being funded by private donations. Unlike the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) or the Congressional Research Service (CRS), the Wilson Center is a think tank which does not directly support Congress and should not be a priority for the federal government. President Trump has taken action to eliminate the Wilson Center “to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law.”<sup>176</sup>

## **Reduce Funding for BOEM’s Renewable Energy Program**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s (BOEM) Renewable Energy Program informs the development of renewable energy on offshore federal lands, which has proven to be a risky investment and an inefficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Department of the Interior has ended special treatment for unreliable energy sources, such as wind, including halting offshore wind lease sales.<sup>177</sup> The President’s FY 2026 Budget Request reduces funding for this program.<sup>178</sup>

## **Eliminate the Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification Program**

The Federal Vehicle and Fuels Standards and Certification Program carries out activities for the development and evaluation of programs designed to reduce emissions from vehicles. This emissions standards program does little to promote a cleaner environment but has been very successful at raising costs for consumers.

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<sup>176</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/continuing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/>

<sup>177</sup> <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/departments-interior-curbs-preferential-treatment-wind-energy>

<sup>178</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=32>

## **Eliminate the Forest Service International Program**

The Forest Service International Program (FSIP) claims to promote sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation internationally by connecting field-based Forest Service staff with overseas partners. Instead, FSIP has worked with USAID to promote radical gender ideology and climate alarmism initiatives across the globe, such as using American taxpayer dollars to increase the number of women tracking greenhouse gas emissions in Central Africa.<sup>179</sup>

## **Eliminate the Forest Products Laboratory**

The Forest Products Laboratory exists to produce new products from forestry resources to aid in conservation of forest land. This is duplicative of private sector efforts and there is no need for taxpayer money to subsidize this research. The RSC Budget eliminates federal funding for this program.

## **Labor, Health and Human Services, Education**

### **Eliminate the National Labor Relations Board**

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is responsible for enforcing U.S. labor law related to collective bargaining and unfair labor practices. The DOJ already oversees a wide variety of civil, criminal, and administrative issues, including antitrust and voting rights. DOJ is more than capable of handling claims of illegal labor practices and could do so without the pro-union bias and partisanship endemic to the NLRB.

### **Eliminate the Job Corps**

Job Corps is a residential education and vocational training program that claims to help young people ages 16 through 24 improve the quality of their lives through vocational and academic training. The Job Corps, while well-intentioned, simply does not produce the results it was created to achieve despite receiving billions in funding. Job Corps participants are less likely to complete high school and less likely to attend or complete college. The program itself has a meager 38.6 percent graduation rate. The Department of Labor (DOL) is in the process of phasing out this program.<sup>180</sup>

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<sup>179</sup> <https://ipknowledgeportal.internationalprograms.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Women-in-Climate-factsheet-2.pdf>

<sup>180</sup> <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20250529>

## **Eliminate the Community Service Employment for Older Americans Program**

DOL's Community Service Employment for Older Americans program provides job training for unemployed seniors, including through subsidized community service activities. Taxpayer money should not be used to incentivize a select population to engage in community service, especially when it is duplicative of other assistance programs. The President's FY 2026 Budget Request eliminates this program.<sup>181</sup>

## **Eliminate the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs**

DOL's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) was originally created to enforce President Johnson's executive order prohibiting discrimination by federal contractors. At the time, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) did not exist. Now, strong anti-discrimination laws apply to all employers. There is no need to fund this duplicative program.

## **Eliminate the Women's Bureau**

DOL's Women's Bureau examines challenges facing women trying to enter the workforce. It was created in 1920 when few women worked outside the home. Today, however, nearly half the U.S. workforce is female, due in part to the number of women pursuing higher education quadrupling from 1970 to 2020. The Women's Bureau has served the purpose for which it was created in 1920 and is no longer necessary.

## **Reduce Funding for the Wage and Hour Division**

The Biden Administration used DOL's Wage and Hour Division to enforce a radical labor agenda that hurt businesses and opportunities for American workers. For example, the Wage and Hour Division issued an unfair and economically damaging joint employer proposal that would have significantly expanded liability, undermined the franchise business model, discouraged entrepreneurship, and caused significant job loss across major sectors of the economy.<sup>182</sup> The Wage and Hour Division also issued a radical proposal that would have undermined the freedom and flexibility of Americans to work for themselves as independent contractors and significantly increased compliance burdens on businesses by forcing those workers to be designated as employees under federal labor law.<sup>183</sup>

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<sup>181</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=30>

<sup>182</sup> <https://edworkforce.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=409984>

<sup>183</sup> <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/01/10/2024-00067/employee-or-independent-contractor-classification-under-the-fair-labor-standards-act>

## **Reduce Funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) sets and enforces health and safety standards for workplaces. It also conducts training, outreach, and education, and provides compliance assistance. OSHA often imposes burdensome regulations on businesses, including the Biden Administration's unconstitutional and tyrannical COVID-19 vaccine mandate. The Biden Administration weaponized OSHA to target and harass businesses instead of focusing on actually improving worker safety and providing compliance assistance to employers. The RSC Budget reduces funding for OSHA and ensures the agency only focuses on its actual purpose—protecting American workers—rather than forcing progressive ideology onto workers and drowning businesses in bureaucracy.

## **Eliminate the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service**

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) is an independent federal agency tasked with resolving labor disputes by offering training to unions and “fostering collaborative labor-management relationships.”<sup>184</sup> President Trump has already taken action to eliminate FMCS.<sup>185</sup> The RSC Budget ensures it does not receive any future funding.

## **Eliminate the Title X Family Planning Program**

The Title X Family Planning Program provides abortion providers with federal funds to terminate pregnancies and end the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent babies each year. Planned Parenthood has historically been the largest recipient of Title X grants. Republicans included a provision in the 2025 reconciliation law that effectively would defund Planned Parenthood, but only for one year due to requirements from the Senate Parliamentarian. The RSC Budget completely eliminates Title X Family Planning funding to save the lives of countless innocent children and ensures Planned Parenthood no longer benefits from taxpayer dollars.

## **Reduce Funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is supposed to conduct research to improve the quality and safety of health care. This program is duplicative of similar health services research already conducted in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and by the private sector. Furthermore, AHRQ under the Biden Administration pushed harmful gender ideology through grants such as “Using Telehealth to Improve Access to Gender-Affirming

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<sup>184</sup> <https://www.fmcs.gov/>

<sup>185</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/continuing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/>

Care for BIPOC and Rural Gender-Diverse Youth.” The President’s FY 2026 Budget Request reduces funding for AHRQ.<sup>186</sup>

### **Consolidate the National Institute of Health**

The mission of NIH is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability. The NIH itself has become bloated and has strayed from its core scientific mission. Not only does the NIH fund questionable research, but it also failed to provide proper oversight of funding that eventually made its way to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The NIH has also funded radical gender ideology, such as funding a study titled “Psychosocial Functioning in Transgender Youth after 2 Years of Hormones,” during which two participants tragically committed suicide. The President’s FY 2026 Budget Request reduces funding for NIH and reorients it towards legitimate health research.<sup>187</sup>

### **Reduce Funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the nation’s public health agency. CDC funding should be reduced to prevent funding from being used to advance progressive social priorities, including those related to firearms, climate change, and “ending structural racism.” HHS Secretary Kennedy has cut 2,400 jobs at CDC and is returning CDC to its core mission of preparing for and responding to epidemics and outbreaks.<sup>188</sup> President Trump’s FY 2026 Budget Request reduces funding for CDC.<sup>189</sup>

### **Reduce Funding for Community Services Block Grants**

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program provides funding to projects aiming to reduce poverty and address the needs of low-income communities. CSBG funding is not tied to performance outcomes and many of these services are already funded through other federal programs or by private or state and local efforts. Community Action Agencies who receive CSBG funding often abuse it to further their own political agendas. The President’s FY 2026 Budget Request reduces funding for CSBG.<sup>190</sup> The RSC Budget reforms

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<sup>186</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=15>

<sup>187</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=14>

<sup>188</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/hhs-restructuring-doge-fact-sheet.html>

<sup>189</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=13>

<sup>190</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=12>

CSBG to require that recipients meet performance metrics and ensure funding is not duplicative of other federal grants.

### **Eliminate the Corporation for National and Community Service**

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) operates four major programs: AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund. These types of efforts are not a core responsibility of the federal government and are more appropriately funded and operated by the private sector. The President's FY 2026 Budget Request eliminates CNCS.<sup>191</sup>

### **Maintain Zero-Funding for Corporation for Public Broadcasting**

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) was a publicly funded, non-profit corporation that claimed to provide access to telecommunications programming but instead served as an echo chamber for biased media.<sup>192</sup> For example, after the horrific assassination of Charlie Kirk, NPR's *It's Been a Minute* podcast dedicated an entire episode to justifying Kirk's murder saying "[Kirk] said some extremely bigoted things" and spreading heinous lies that Kirk promoted stoning people to death.<sup>193</sup> Thankfully, Republicans in Congress passed President Trump's rescission request in July 2025 and eliminated funding for CPB. The RSC Budget maintains zero funding for CPB.

### **Eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides grants to local museums and libraries, a task that can be better handled by the private sector and local governments. President Trump has taken action to eliminate IMLS to the maximum extent allowed by law.<sup>194</sup>

### **Eliminate the Department of Education**

The Trump Administration is working to phase out the Department of Education, which has imposed onerous requirements on state education systems.<sup>195</sup> The Administration has been

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<sup>191</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=41>

<sup>192</sup> <https://www.heritage.org/budget-and-spending/commentary/taxpayers-will-no-longer-underwrite-nprs-battle-the-truth>

<sup>193</sup> <https://www.npr.org/transcripts/nx-s1-5538464>

<sup>194</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/continuing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/>

<sup>195</sup> <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/statement-president-trumps-executive-order-return-power-over-education-states-and-local-communities>



clear it is not eliminating funding for essential education programs. The RSC Budget reduces funding for the Department of Education to reflect the decreasing workforce and transition of current Department work to other federal agencies. As work to wind down the Department continues, funding should be reduced accordingly. DOGE also eliminated approximately 89 independent research contracts at the Institute of Education Sciences, valued at approximately \$900 million. The RSC Budget thoughtfully and effectively winds down the federal Department of Education and returns control over education to states, local communities, and families.

### **Eliminate the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants Program**

The Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants Program provides federal funding for teacher development and training which should be funded by the states. The RSC Budget eliminates this program, in line with President Trump's actions to empower states' control over education.<sup>196</sup>

### **Eliminate the Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant Program**

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program provides unnecessary K-12 federal education program funding that should be funded by the states. The RSC Budget eliminates this program, in line with President Trump's Executive Order to empower states' control over education.<sup>197</sup>

### **Eliminate the School Improvement Grants Program**

The School Improvement Grants Program funds unnecessary K-12 federal education programs that should be funded by the states. The RSC Budget eliminates this program, in line with President Trump's actions to empower states' control over education.<sup>198</sup>

### **Eliminate 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers**

The Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers provide funding for afterschool, summer, and extracurricular programs which should be funded by the states. Even President Obama proposed reducing funding for this unnecessary program.<sup>199</sup> The RSC Budget eliminates funding for this program.

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<sup>196</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/improving-education-outcomes-by-empowering-parents-states-and-communities/>

<sup>197</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/improving-education-outcomes-by-empowering-parents-states-and-communities/>

<sup>198</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/improving-education-outcomes-by-empowering-parents-states-and-communities/>

<sup>199</sup> <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2017/assets/ccs.pdf>

## **Eliminate the Comprehensive Centers Program**

The Comprehensive Centers Program claims to provide capacity-building services to state-level education agencies but instead wasted \$226 million in grant funding to force radical agendas onto states and education systems under the Biden Administration.<sup>200</sup> The RSC Budget eliminates this program, in line with President Trump's actions to empower states' control over education.<sup>201</sup>

## **Reduce Funding for Student Financial Assistance**

Conservatives believe in moving beyond the failed "college for all" mentality that has resulted in a shocking and unsustainable \$1.7 trillion in outstanding student loan debt and a poor return on investment for students and taxpayers. Reducing the federal footprint in higher education is particularly necessary given the widespread and concerning reports of woke and divisive ideology, lack of intellectual diversity, and antisemitism on many college campuses. Student loan financing should be handled by the private sector, not federal bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

## **Reduce Funding for Higher Education Programs**

Many institutions of higher education (IHEs) have been found to promote critical race theory and other divisive ideology. Troublingly, many IHEs have also failed to properly respond to instances of antisemitism on campus following the brutal and unprovoked attacks against Israel by Hamas. While IHEs publicly lament the disastrous consequences of reducing the federal funding they receive, IHEs are simultaneously sitting on massive endowments that are largely tax-exempt. Republicans also took action in the 2025 reconciliation law to increase the endowment tax on private IHEs based on the value of their endowment funds compared to their student enrollment.

## **Legislative Branch**

Advancing and modernizing the capabilities of the House of Representatives is a priority for the RSC to ensure Congress can execute its Article One authorities. The RSC Budget supports appropriations for the Modernization Initiatives Account which funds initiatives to modernize House operations.<sup>202</sup> The RSC fully supports the work of Rep. Bice (R-OK) on the House Administration Committee. The RSC Budget also supports appropriations for the

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<sup>200</sup> <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-cancels-divisive-and-wasteful-grants-under-comprehensive-centers-program>

<sup>201</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/improving-education-outcomes-by-empowering-parents-states-and-communities/>

<sup>202</sup> <https://rollcall.com/2025/07/07/they-wanted-to-fix-congress-they-still-do-modernizers-say/>

Joint Committee on Continuity to ensure congressional continuity in the face of the next, potentially unforeseen crisis.<sup>203</sup> These are investments in our Legislative Branch to enable Congress to execute its constitutional authorities.

### **National Security, Department of State**

#### **Reduce Funding for U.S. Agency for International Development**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funding should be significantly reduced. The Trump Administration has brought to light the massive waste and abuse within USAID and cancelled thousands of wasteful projects, including funding a “DEI musical” in Ireland, a “transgender comic book” in Peru, and sex changes and “LGBT activism” in Guatemala.<sup>204</sup> The Rescissions Act of 2025 reduced funding for this account. The RSC Budget calls for foreign aid to be streamlined and focused on advancing American priorities and national security, not woke ideology.

#### **Reduce Funding for the Assistance for Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia Program**

The Assistance for Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia Program became an egregious misuse of taxpayer dollars under the Biden Administration, including funding for an LGBTQI+ community center in Slovakia, fostering “queer-feminist discourse” in Albanian society, and “celebrating” DEI in the Netherlands.<sup>205, 206, 207</sup> The Rescissions Act of 2025 rescinded all of the FY 2025 funding appropriated for this account. The RSC Budget consolidates this program with other foreign aid programs and ensures foreign aid only supports U.S. priorities and national security.

#### **Eliminate the U.S. Agency for Global Media**

U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) Senior Advisor Kari Lake described the agency as “a giant rot and burden to the American taxpayer...” and highlighted overspending on

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<sup>203</sup> <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GPO-CRPT-117hrpt646/pdf/GPO-CRPT-117hrpt646.pdf>

<sup>204</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/02/at-usaid-waste-and-abuse-runs-deep/#:~:text=Here%20are%20only%20a%20few%20examples%20of%20the%20WASTE%20and%20ABUSE%3A&text=%2470%2C000%20for%20production%20of%20a,transgender%20comic%20book%E2%80%9D%20in%20Peru>

<sup>205</sup> [https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST\\_NON\\_SLO10023GR0043\\_1900](https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_SLO10023GR0043_1900)

<sup>206</sup> [https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST\\_NON\\_SAL60024GR0066\\_1900](https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_SAL60024GR0066_1900)

<sup>207</sup> [https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST\\_NON\\_SNL80021GR3030\\_1900](https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_SNL80021GR3030_1900)

leases, self-dealing contracts, and national security violations.<sup>208</sup> President Trump is taking action to eliminate USAGM to the maximum extent allowed by law.<sup>209</sup>

### **Eliminate U.S. Funding for the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an international organization that provides assessments on climate change. This organization emboldens policies that undermine American energy production and values. American taxpayers should not be subsidizing an international organization that opposes American values.

### **Eliminate U.S. Funding for the U.N. Human Rights Council**

The U.N. Human Rights Council is comprised of member nations like Cuba, Venezuela, China, and Rwanda, all of which have abysmal records on human rights. President Trump withdrew the U.S. from the U.N. Human Rights Council.<sup>210</sup> The RSC Budget ensures no further U.S. taxpayer money goes towards funding the U.N. Human Rights Council.

### **Eliminate U.S. Funding for the Green Climate Fund**

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is an account for climate finance established by 194 countries in 2010 within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which claims to assist developing countries with climate change adaptation and mitigation activities. The GCF spreads woke climate alarmism abroad and the RSC Budget ends U.S. funding to the GCF.

### **Eliminate U.S. Funding for the Clean Technology Fund**

The Clean Technology Fund (CTF) provides large-scale financial resources for investments in clean technology projects in developing countries. CTF claims these projects contribute to the demonstration, deployment, and transfer of low-carbon technologies with potential for long-term greenhouse gas emissions savings. In 2023, the Treasury Department gave CTF a \$568 million loan adding to a total of \$1.5 billion American tax dollars wasted to CTF.<sup>211</sup> The Rescissions Act of 2025 rescinded all of CTF's FY 2025 appropriated funding for

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<sup>208</sup> <https://www.usagm.gov/2025/03/15/u-s-agency-for-global-media-complies-with-presidential-executive-order-to-reduce-the-federal-bureaucracy/>

<sup>209</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/continuing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/>

<sup>210</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/withdrawing-the-united-states-from-and-ending-funding-to-certain-united-nations-organizations-and-reviewing-united-states-support-to-all-international-organizations/>

<sup>211</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1943>

this account. The RSC Budget ensures there is no future funding for CTF's biased ideology and untested projects.

### **Eliminate U.S. Funding for the Global Environment Facility**

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral environmental fund that provides grants and blended finance for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, persistent organic pollutants, mercury, sustainable forest management, food security, and sustainable cities in developing countries. GEF was established in 1991 by 184 countries. In reality, this funding is wasted on woke climate projects such as grants to bring countries like Namibia and Serbia into compliance with the Paris Climate Agreement.<sup>212,213</sup> President Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement because it does not reflect U.S. values. Given our withdrawal from the Agreement, American taxpayers should not be funding other countries' compliance with it.

### **Enforce the Cap on U.S. Contributions for U.N. Peacekeeping Operations**

The Foreign Relations Authorization Act (FRAA) caps the amount of U.S. contributions for U.N. peacekeeping operations to no more than 25 percent of the total amount for operations. However, the U.S. is currently paying 26.95 percent of all U.N. peacekeeping operations.<sup>214</sup> The Rescissions Act of 2025 reduced funding for this account. The RSC Budget caps U.S. contributions to U.N. peacekeeping operations to no more than 25 percent, as authorized under FRAA.

### **Reduce Funding for the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund**

The Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund operates as a slush fund for bureaucrats to circumvent federal law and continue subsidizing the open borders ideology by sending funds to progressive international organizations.<sup>215</sup> The Rescissions Act of 2025 reduced funding for this account. The RSC Budget reduces funding for this program to focus it on providing actual assistance to refugees fleeing international crises.

### **Eliminate Funding for the Inter-American Foundation**

The Inter-American Foundation (IAF) is an independent agency that funds community-led development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was created through the Foreign Assistance Act of 1969 as an alternative to traditional foreign assistance that operates

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<sup>212</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11922>

<sup>213</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11856>

<sup>214</sup> <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/how-we-are-funded>

<sup>215</sup> <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/05/01/memorandum-on-unexpected-urgent-refugee-and-migration-needs-3/>

government-to-government on a much larger scale. President Trump has taken action to eliminate IAF.<sup>216</sup> DOGE found IAF issued grants for preposterous projects such as reducing social discrimination of recyclers in Bolivia and promoting cultural understanding of Venezuelan migrants in Brazil.<sup>217</sup> IAF also used 45 percent of its annual funding for administrative overhead instead of grants.<sup>218</sup> The Rescissions Act of 2025 reduced funding for this account.

### **Eliminate Funding for the Inter-American Development Bank**

The Inter-American Development Bank (IADF) is an international financial institution, headquartered in Washington, D.C., serving as the largest source of development financing for Latin America and the Caribbean. IADF has devolved into primarily issuing funds for climate change projects, such as funding “sustainable tourism” projects, “social investment” projects, and “women’s bio-economy initiatives” in Colombia.<sup>219</sup> This is not a responsible use of American taxpayer dollars, and the RSC Budget eliminates funding for the Inter-American Development Bank.

### **Reduce Funding for the Asia Foundation**

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization aiming to improve lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Its work across the region focuses on governance, women's empowerment, gender equality, inclusive economic growth, environment and climate action, and regional and international cooperation. The U.S. provided 51 percent of funding for the Asia Foundation in FY 2024.<sup>220</sup> The RSC Budget reduces funding for the Asia Foundation to refocus U.S. foreign aid towards advancing U.S. national security and international interests.

### **Eliminate Funding for the Asian Development Bank**

The Asian Development Bank is a regional development bank headquartered in the Philippines and established in 1966. The bank also maintains 31 field offices around the world to promote social and economic development in Asia. The bank includes members of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and non-regional developed countries, including China, Iran, and Russia. It should not be subsidized by the U.S. taxpayer.

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<sup>216</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/commencing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/>

<sup>217</sup> <https://nypost.com/2025/03/04/us-news/doge-announces-this-government-agencys-staff-has-been-trimmed-to-one-statutory-minimum/>

<sup>218</sup> <https://x.com/DOGE/status/1898852426242797887?lang=en>

<sup>219</sup> <https://www.iadb.org/en/project/CO-T1746>

<sup>220</sup> <https://asiafoundation.org/the-asia-foundation-2024-annual-report/>

## **Eliminate Funding for the U.S. African Development Foundation**

The U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) is an independent U.S. government agency established by Congress in 1980 to invest directly in African grassroots enterprises and social entrepreneurs. USADF's investments aim to increase incomes, revenues, and jobs by promoting self-reliance and market-based solutions to poverty. President Trump has taken action to eliminate USADF to reduce waste, fraud, abuse, and bureaucracy in U.S. foreign assistance.<sup>221</sup> The Rescissions Act of 2025 reduced funding for this account.

## **Eliminate Funding for the African Development Bank**

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is a multilateral development finance institution that was established in 1964 and is headquartered in the Ivory Coast. The AfDB consists of the African Development Bank, the African Development Fund, and the Nigeria Trust Fund, which purportedly aim to fight poverty and improve living conditions on the continent through promoting the investment of public and private capital in projects that contribute to the economic and social development of the region. AfDB is now prioritizing financing radical climate projects instead.<sup>222</sup>

## **Eliminate Federal Funding for the World Health Organization**

The United States was the largest donor to the World Health Organization (WHO) during the 2022-2023 biennium, contributing \$1.284 billion.<sup>223</sup> The WHO completely mishandled the COVID-19 pandemic and has encouraged reckless opioid prescription practices.<sup>224</sup> The Trump Administration withdrew the United States from the WHO on January 20, 2025.<sup>225</sup> The RSC Budget eliminates all U.S. funding to the WHO.

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<sup>221</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/commencing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/>

<sup>222</sup> <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/sectors/climate-change/action-plan-climate-change>

<sup>223</sup> <https://www.who.int/about/funding/contributors/usa>

<sup>224</sup> <https://halrogers.house.gov/cache/files/c/3/c359e585-8748-4949-9768-6767d800e91c/1A59F877D85021445276B30C420C1556.5.22.19-who-purdue-report.pdf>

<sup>225</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/withdrawing-the-united-states-from-the-worldhealth-organization/>

## **Transportation, Housing and Urban Development**

### **Eliminate the Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program**

The Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program provides competitive funding for projects that support the purchase of electric or low-emitting ferries and the electrification of, or other reduction of, emissions from existing ferries. Not only is this an ideological, biased climate program, but in FY 2024 only 14 states received funding from this program including the most affluent metropolitan areas in the country such as San Francisco and New York City.<sup>226</sup> The RSC Budget eliminates funding for this wasteful program.

### **Eliminate the Green and Resilient Retrofit Program**

The Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRP) provides loan and grant funding to support projects that reduce carbon emissions, improve utility efficiency, implement the use of renewable energy generation, enhance indoor air quality, and improve the climate resilience of eligible HUD-assisted multifamily properties. Thankfully, the Trump Administration has paused this program.<sup>227</sup> The RSC Budget eliminates funding for GRRP.

### **Eliminate Federal Funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority**

The federal government provides annual grants to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) for capital investment and asset rehabilitation activities. The federal government should not be subsidizing the public transit system of one of the most affluent metropolitan areas in the U.S.

### **Eliminate Federal Funding for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation**

The federal government has subsidized the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, better known as Amtrak, since it was created by Congress in 1970. The railroad service consistently loses money and leaves taxpayers to foot the bill. Further, the Northeast Corridor Grant Program only supports a small region of the country. Taxpayer money should not be used to subsidize rail travel for a small percentage of the U.S. population.

### **Eliminate the New Starts Transit Program**

The New Starts Transit Program, sometimes called Capital Investment Grants, provides billions in subsidies to local transit for capital improvements. These projects are inefficient

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<sup>226</sup> <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/grant-programs/fta-ferry-grant-program-2024-selected-projects>

<sup>227</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/13/business/hud-affordable-housing-green-energy.html>



and fail to reduce congestion. Because this program subsidizes only new projects, it incentivizes transit agencies to build expensive projects without regard to cost, putting taxpayers on the hook for operating costs down the road and diverting funds from adequately maintaining existing roads and other infrastructure. These projects occur almost exclusively in affluent metropolitan areas, including wasteful federal funding for the New York City subway system, Los Angeles subway system, and San Francisco downtown rail extension.<sup>228</sup>

### **Eliminate RAISE Grants**

RAISE Grants, originally known as TIGER Grants when created by President Obama, were enacted as part of Obama's failed stimulus legislation. GAO has found problems with the funding decisions made by the Biden Administration under this program. In a review of RAISE application decisions in FY 2022, GAO found the Department of Transportation (DOT) did not consistently document decisions or disclose two of the selection factors.<sup>229</sup> The RSC Budget eliminates this corrupted program.

### **Eliminate the Thriving Communities Initiative**

The Thriving Communities Initiative stems from the Biden Administration's Justice40 initiative, which directed that 40 percent of federal investments in climate and clean energy flow to "disadvantaged" communities. This program provides funding to state and local transit agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, and others for community development projects in disadvantaged areas. President Trump has taken action to eliminate this office as part of his call for ending DEI practices in the federal government.<sup>230</sup>

### **Reduce Funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program**

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides grants to state and local governments to help fund housing and expand economic opportunities. The program does not reach the poorest populations and goes to projects that could instead be funded by state and local governments. President Trump's FY 2026 Budget Request eliminates CDBG funding granted to community action agencies carrying out their own biased agendas.<sup>231</sup> The RSC Budget reduces funding for CDBG.

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<sup>228</sup> <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grant-programs/capital-investments/current-capital-investment-grant-cig-projects>

<sup>229</sup> [https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-106280#summary\\_recommend](https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-106280#summary_recommend)

<sup>230</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-radical-and-wasteful-government-dei-programs-and-preferencing/>

<sup>231</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=12>

## **Eliminate the Intercity Rail Partnership**

The federal-state partnership for Intercity Rail was created in the IIJA and funds projects, planning, and environmental studies to replace or repair intercity passenger rail infrastructure, equipment, or facilities. It also funds studies on theories to improve intercity passenger rail service or establish new rail service. This program funds unnecessary studies on metropolitan areas transit systems, such as the New York City subway, at the American taxpayer's expense for some of the wealthiest areas in the country.<sup>232</sup>

## **Reduce Funding for the Transit Formula Grants**

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Transit Formula Grants fund local transit projects such as buses and rail. Federal transportation spending should be limited to core federal duties. Local transit operations, such as buses and rail, should be handled at the state and local level.

## **Reduce Funding for the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity**

The Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) enforces federal laws regarding equal access to housing. President Trump's FY 2026 Budget Request eliminates the Fair Housing Initiatives Program within FHEO, which has promoted radical DEI policies.<sup>233</sup> The RSC Budget reduces funding for the FHEO to ensure the Office does not weaponize civil rights law to advance a divisive and woke agenda.

## **Reduce Funding for Rental Housing Assistance Programs**

Rental housing assistance should be streamlined given significant duplication and overlap with other programs. Subsidies for low-income individuals for rental housing should primarily be handled at the local community level and by the states. The President's FY 2026 Budget Request and the RSC Budget restructure rental assistance into formula grants for states and implement a two-year cap on rental assistance for able-bodied adults to ensure the majority of rental assistance helps the elderly and disabled.<sup>234</sup>

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<sup>232</sup> <https://railroads.dot.gov/about-fra/communications/newsroom/press-releases/investing-america-biden-harris-administration-4>

<sup>233</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=29>

<sup>234</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf#page=27>

## **Eliminate the Interagency Council on Homelessness**

Under the Biden Administration, the Interagency Council on Homelessness explicitly focused on divisive racial equity, “decriminalization,” and a destructive “Housing First” policy.<sup>235</sup> President Trump has taken action to unwind this entity<sup>236</sup> and the RSC Budget eliminates funding for the Council.

## **Eliminate Federal Funding for High-Speed Rail Projects**

Funding for high-speed rail projects, like the wasteful California high-speed rail project, should be eliminated. The California High-Speed Rail project is one of the most egregious abuses of taxpayer money in history. After 16 years and approximately \$15 billion spent on this project, the California High-Speed Rail Authority has not laid a single piece of high-speed track. Further, the proposed \$135 billion project cost could purchase 200 roundtrip flights between Los Angeles and San Francisco for every resident of each city.<sup>237</sup> Thankfully, Transportation Secretary Duffy terminated \$4 billion in unspent federal funds for this project after conducting an extensive compliance review.<sup>238</sup> The RSC Budget eliminates federal funding for high-speed rail projects to protect taxpayers from subsidizing any similar boondoggles.

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<sup>235</sup> <https://www.heritage.org/housing/report/the-housing-first-approach-has-failed-time-reform-federal-policy-and-make-it-work>

<sup>236</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/continuing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/>

<sup>237</sup> <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/trumps-transportation-secretary-sean-p-duffy-pulls-plug-4b-california-high-speed>

<sup>238</sup> <https://railroads.dot.gov/elibrary/termination-cooperative-agreements>