

Monday, December 12, 2011

RSC Update: Everything but the Kitchen Sink This Week

From the Chairman

For the last 11 months, liberals in the Senate and President Obama have blocked almost all the good reforms and spending cuts that Republicans have passed through the House. They backed things up so much that it seems everything but the kitchen sink is on the agenda this week.

Tomorrow, the House will vote on a bill (H.R. 3630) extending through 2012 the reduction in the Social Security payroll tax that Congress approved last December. The bill also puts tighter constraints on the growth of future spending, gets the job-creating Keystone pipeline back on track, creates more taxpayer safeguards in the TANF welfare program, and reduces the maximum duration of unemployment payments from 99 to 79 weeks – which President Obama has also proposed – and then finally to 59 weeks. In fact, the President has at one time or another [supported 90% of the reforms](#) in this legislation.

There is, however, a major concern that liberals in the Senate will gut H.R. 3630 of its good reforms and insert major tax increases. Senate Democrats also continue to demand spending at levels we simply can't afford. In their obstinance, they have rolled 9 different spending bills into 1 “megabus” package that they will attempt to pass this week as well.

From the [RSC budget](#) to [Cut, Cap, and Balance](#), conservatives have fought all year to get spending down in a serious way. We've had some successes and are starting to make an impact, but, as the existence of this “megabus” shows, our work is far from over. With your help, we will continue to advance conservative solutions.

God Bless,

Congressman Jim Jordan
Chairman, Republican Study Committee

RSC Media Activity – RSC members work hard to ensure that the conservative viewpoint is well-represented in all corners of the media. Visit our [Media Center](#) for more.

- Rep. James Lankford (OK-05): [A Common Sense Solution to the Budget Madness – The Government Shutdown Prevention Act](#); Fox News, December 6.
- Rep. John Fleming (LA-04): [Kagan's Necessary Recusal](#); The Washington Times, December 6.

- Rep. Sam Graves (MO-06): [Small Businesses Want Washington to Rein in Regulations](#); CNBC, December 7.
- Rep. Mike Pompeo (KS-04): [EPA Must Stop Playing in the Dust](#); The Washington Examiner, December 7.
- Rep. James Lankford (OK-05) Video: [A Market-Based Approach to Health Care](#), December 7.
- Rep. Geoff Davis (KY-04): [REINS Act Would Rein in Overzealous Regulators](#); Roll Call, December 7.
- Rep. Todd Rokita (IN-04): [New Austerity in Our Future](#); The Washington Times, December 8.
- Rep. Darrell Issa (CA-49): [Holder Protecting Staff over ‘Fast and Furious’](#); USA Today, December 8.
- Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05) & Sen. Jim DeMint (SC): [End the Bailouts: US Should Not Participate in \\$1.4 Trillion European Bailout Fund](#); Investor’s Business Daily, December 8.
- Rep. Dennis Ross (FL-12): [Economic Reality vs. Popcorn Populism](#); News Chief, December 11.
- Rep. Jim Jordan (OH-04): [Jobs Through Growth Act: Aspiration Replaces Envy](#); Human Events, December 11.
- Rep. Mike Coffman (CO-06): [Time to Kill Congressional Pensions and Cut Pay](#); Human Events, December 12.
- Rep. Tom Price (GA-06) & Rep. Paul Ryan (WI-01): [Getting America out of Deep Debt](#); The Chicago Tribune, December 12.

RSC Member Activity – RSC members make it a priority to introduce productive, conservative solutions for America’s future.

- Rep. Bill Flores (TX-17) introduced [H.R. 3565](#), the *Reconnecting Congress with America Act* (RCWA), which would tie Congressional salaries to the Federal budget deficit and repeal the automatic Congressional pay adjustment.
- Rep. Jack Kingston (GA-01) introduced [H.R. 3601](#), the *Ensuring Quality in the Unemployment Insurance Program* (EQUIP) Act, which would require applicants for unemployment compensation to complete a drug screening assessment as a condition for benefits.
- Members of the House Budget Committee introduced a comprehensive package of [ten legislative reforms](#) designed to help repair the broken budget process.

- Rep. James Lankford (OK-05) introduced [H.R. 3609](#), the *Taxpayers Right to Know Act*, to provide the American people with a better understanding of how their tax dollars are spent.
- Rep. Larry Bucshon (IN-08) introduced [H.R. 3488](#), the *Invest in America First Act of 2011*, which would prohibit foreign aid from being given to countries with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over \$1.5 trillion.
- Rep. Steve Pearce (NM-02) introduced [H.R. 3615](#), the *Accountability in Unemployment Act*, which would combat abuse of the federal unemployment compensation program and save taxpayers money by requiring recipients of unemployment benefits to pass a drug screen.

House Floor Activity – The following key legislation came through the House of Representatives recently.

- On Wednesday, the House passed [H.R. 10](#), the *Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act*, which is an element of the [RSC’s Jobs Through Growth Act](#) (H.R. 3400) as well.
- On Thursday, the House passed [H.R. 1633](#), the *Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act*.

Outlook – A quick look at what’s on the horizon.

- On Tuesday, the House is expected to consider H.R. 3630, the *Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act*.
- On Wednesday, the House is expected to consider the “megabus” appropriations bill.
- Sometime this week, the House may consider the Conference Report on the *National Defense Authorization Act*.

RSC Reports

- Each week the House is in session, the RSC Budget and Spending Taskforce compiles a [weekly report](#) on the latest budget and spending news. Additionally, the [RSC Money Monitor](#) tracks how bills passed by the House affect authorizations, mandatory spending, and federal government revenue.

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