

Monday, December 19, 2011

RSC Update: The Senate Punts, Goes on Vacation

From the Chairman

It's become an all-too-familiar refrain: the House passes a bill, only to see Senate Democrats water it down, punt, or ignore it all together. This time it's the [Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act](#).

The bill we passed last week kept the payroll tax break in place for a full year, kept long-term unemployment benefits in place while reducing the maximum time from 99 to 59 weeks, and put the Keystone pipeline back on track. At the same time, we lowered the caps on future spending and included some good welfare reforms.

So what did the Senate do? They punted, proposing just a two-month extension of the payroll tax and unemployment payments with no spending cuts or reforms. Then the body that hasn't even passed a budget in almost 1,000 days promptly left for vacation.

A two-month extension just means [confusion and uncertainty](#) for another two months. Families and businesses don't plan just two months at a time, and neither should Congress. House Republicans are willing to keep working until this is settled for next year. The Senate should come back from vacation and do its job.

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. Darrell Issa (CA-49): [Lies, Green Lies and Statistics](#); The Huffington Post, December 12.
- Rep. John Shimkus (IL-16): [Jaczko's Mismanagement of the NRC Has Consequences](#); The Daily Caller, December 14.
- Rep. James Lankford (OK-05): [Mission in Afghanistan Remains Clear](#); The Edmund Sun, December 17.

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

- Rep. Mike Coffman (CO-06) introduced [two bills](#): H.R. 3673 to end automatic annual pay raises for members of Congress; and H.J.Res. 93 to amend the Constitution to limit Congressional terms to 12 years for both the House and Senate.
- Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle (NY-25) introduced [H.R. 3683](#), to repeal a section of ObamaCare that cuts Medicare payments to hospitals.
- Rep. Ed Royce (CA-40) introduced [H.R. 3655](#), to give small businesses better access to capital.
- Rep. Jeff Flake (AZ-06) organized a [letter](#) from 73 House members urging House leaders to let ethanol subsidies expire.

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

- On Tuesday, the House passed [H.R. 3630](#), the *Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act*.
- On Wednesday, the House passed the conference report to [H.R. 1540](#), the *2012 National Defense Authorization Act*.
- On Thursday, the House passed [H.R. 3659](#), the Welfare Integrity and Data Improvement Act.
- On Friday, the House passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act/Disaster Relief Act ([H.R. 2055](#) and [H.R. 3672](#)) and the Intelligence Authorization Act ([H.R. 1892](#)).

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

- Tonight, the House is expected to reaffirm its stance on H.R. 3630 and reject the Senate’s two-month extension.
- The schedule for the remainder of 2011 remains unclear at this time.

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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