



*Week Ending 2-13-26*  
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### **This Week in Congress!**

Both chambers of Congress were in session this week and will be in recess next week for a 10-day break.

The House considered four bills including the SAVE Act (S. 1383), which would require proof of citizenship for voter registration and photo identification to vote in federal elections; the Law-Enforcement Innovate to De-Escalate Act (H.R. 2189), which would reclassify conducted electrical weapons, such as Tasers, and exempt them from an excise tax applicable to firearms; the Securing America's Critical Minerals Supply Act (H.R. 3617), to mandate assessments of the U.S. supply of critical energy resources; and the Undersea Cable Protection Act (H.R. 261) to prohibit additional permitting requirements on previously approved undersea fiber optic cables.

Also, the chamber considered seven bills including the Housing for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (a modified version of H.R. 6644), a bipartisan bill to address housing affordability issues; a bill (H.R. 3682) to limit the authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council to designate a non-bank financial institution as “systemically important” and subject to heightened supervision; a bill (H.R. 3390) that would require the Federal Reserve to create a plan to update its discount window lending program; and a bill (H.R. 1531) to require federal financial regulators to try to exclude China from participating in certain international banking and economic organizations if the president declares that China is threatening Taiwan. The remaining three bills on the list would mandate creation of a congressional time capsule (S. 3705), create a commemorative coin (H.R. 5616), and provide guidelines for sanctions on Myanmar (H.R. 3190).

Meanwhile in the Senate, they proceeded with confirmation votes of administration nominees, along with consideration of a resolution to effectively repeal a D.C. law that decouples the city’s tax code from certain tax provisions included in last year’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Finally, the chamber proceeded with votes to fund Homeland Security departments and programs.

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### **FY26 Appropriations Update**

Last Tuesday, Congress passed, and President Trump signed, a Senate-revised appropriations minibus, bringing an end to a brief partial government shutdown. The bill fully funds all federal agencies and programs for the remainder of FY 2026 (ending on September 30), except for those covered by the Homeland Security bill. Homeland Security funding was extended at FY 2024 levels until midnight Friday.

In the preliminary procedural vote, President Trump managed to secure support from all but one Republican, allowing the chamber to proceed with consideration of the bill. However, he had less success with the final vote on the bill itself, as 21 far-right Republicans voted against it. Despite this, the bill narrowly passed 217-214, aided by 21 Democrats from the party’s leadership and a number of vulnerable members.

While the process took time and was marked by two government shutdowns (including the longest in history), Congress has made progress on FY 2026 appropriations compared to last year. The last regular spending legislation was passed in March 2024 for FY 2024. However, no FY 2025 appropriations bills were passed, and Congress relied on short-term funding measures in September and December 2024, followed by a full-year continuing resolution in March 2025 that largely kept non-defense spending at FY 2024 levels.

Republicans will need Democratic support to pass the final FY 2026 appropriations bill in the Senate. Democratic leaders have outlined conditions for their support, including 10 proposed reforms to ICE activities, such as requiring immigration agents to secure judicial warrants before entering private property, verifying that detained individuals are not U.S. citizens, prohibiting agents from wearing masks, mandating the use of body cameras, restricting immigration enforcement near sensitive locations (like hospitals, schools, and polling places), and banning racial profiling. Republicans have rejected these proposals as unrealistic.

It's unlikely that a deal will be reached this week as most lawmakers have already left town. Both sides prefer to keep Homeland Security departments and programs funded, as the bill covers agencies like ICE, Customs and Border Protection, TSA, the Coast Guard, and FEMA. Leadership may attempt to buy more time for negotiations with a short-term stopgap funding bill, but this would likely require visible progress toward a compromise.

It's also possible that House Republicans may try to push the Senate by passing a full-year Homeland Security appropriations bill before the end of the week. However, any partisan bill passed by the House would likely be blocked in the Senate. Ultimately, Congress may need to settle for a full-year continuation of FY 2025 spending levels.

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### **Rescission of Health and Transportation Funds**

The Trump administration is rescinding a total of \$1.5 billion in health and transportation funds from multiple blue states. The OMB directed the Transportation Department to rescind \$943 million from Colorado, Illinois, California and Minnesota, and it directed the CDC to rescind \$602 million from those states.

The cut in Transportation programs include: \$100 million for deployment of electric vehicle chargers in Illinois; \$15 million for Minneapolis and St. Paul to deploy chargers in low-income and high pollution areas; \$15 million for a network across the San Francisco Bay area with an emphasis on disadvantaged communities; and \$4.9 million for Colorado to install charging stations in low- and middle-income neighborhoods.

For the CDC the reductions include: \$5.2 million for the Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago to increase use of HIV-prevention drug; \$3 million for Colorado to address COVID-19 related health disparities; \$988,000 for Chicago to engage with populations impacted by HIV and other sexually transmitted infections; and \$500,000 for the University of California to evaluate intimate-partner violence among LGBTQ youth.

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### **House Voted to Overturn Tariffs on Canada**

The House of Representatives voted 219–211 to rescind or block President Trump's tariffs on Canada. Six Republicans crossed party lines to join nearly all Democrats in the vote. One Democrat (Rep. Jared Golden) voted against the measure.

After doing everything possible over the past year to avoid House votes on President Trump's tariffs, GOP lawmakers finally had to go on the record yesterday. But there was no drama, as most House Republicans voted to support Trump's tariffs against Canada.

Trump had imposed sweeping 25 percent tariffs on most Canadian goods and 10 percent on Canadian energy products. They were justified under a national emergency declaration linking Canada to fentanyl trafficking across the border.

The House vote terminates the national emergency that formed the legal basis for the tariffs. However, this step is not final, because the Senate must also approve it. If the Senate agrees, Trump can veto it as the House did not reach the veto-proof threshold.

Democrats are planning even more House votes to repeal Trump's tariffs against Mexico, Brazil, and his sweeping 'Liberation Day' import duties. They are more than happy to have GOP lawmakers defend the tariffs - and the price increases that have come with them.

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### **Federal Worker Protections Eliminated**

The Trump administration has finalized a rule that allows for the easier dismissal of 50,000 federal workers focused on policy. This change eliminates many civil service and whistleblower protections, effectively converting their status to something similar to that of political appointees, who can be fired at will.

The administration has defended the move, claiming it needs more flexibility to remove workers who are seen as obstructing the president's agenda, emphasizing that it's not about personal beliefs. Lawsuits were filed when the proposal was first introduced and are expected to continue challenging the rule.

This change is part of a broader effort by the administration to reduce the size of the federal workforce, including nonpartisan civil service workers who have traditionally been shielded from political turnover under the merit-based hiring system that has long been in place.

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### **Retire Rates**

Republicans are retiring at faster rates than Democrats. To date, 52 members of the House have announced they will not seek reelection—31 Republicans and 21 Democrats.