



Advocating for the Signatory Finishing Industry

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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This Week in Congress!

The US Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump's sweeping global tariffs on Friday. Congress operated on a light schedule this past week, holding mostly brief pro forma sessions in both chambers rather than conducting full legislative business. Congress is preparing for Trump's first official State of the Union address of his second term. The White House pushed for a clean renewal of Section 702 surveillance authority amid widening Republican disagreement. Lawmakers also failed to advance an Obamacare compromise and intensified debates over election policy, including citizenship verification requirements. Meanwhile, a DHS funding impasse triggered a limited shutdown, with most operations continuing due to prior appropriations.

Tariffs Struck Down by US Supreme Court

The US Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump's sweeping global tariffs, undercutting his signature economic policy and delivering his biggest legal defeat since he returned to the White House.

In a 6-3 decision on Friday the Supreme Court ruled that President Trump exceeded his authority when he imposed sweeping tariffs on imports from nearly every U.S. trading partner.

The [decision](#) has significant implications for the U.S. economy, consumers and the president's trade policy. The administration has said that a loss at the Supreme Court could force the government to unwind trade deals with other countries and potentially pay hefty refunds to importers.

President Trump is the first president to claim that a 1970s emergency statute, which does not mention the word "tariffs," allowed him to unilaterally impose the duties without congressional approval.

Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Roberts said the statute does not authorize the president to impose tariffs and that, "he must identify clear congressional authorization to exercise it." Justices Thomas, Alito and Kavanaugh dissented.

DHS Partial Shutdown

Congresses' work week comes to an end today with seemingly no political movement on the funding impasse at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Democrats continue to demand action on a series of measures to apply local police guardrails to federal immigration agents. And the White House continues to reject those calls.

Just as Democrats are dug in against ICE, Republicans aren't budging on their demands to fund DHS, blaming Democrats for the shutdown impasse. "They are creating chaos that hurts all Americans," said Rep. Mark Alford (R-MO).

It is expected that DHS could continue most operations due to prior-year appropriations, but other components such as FEMA and TSA might face cuts.

Trump's First Official State of the Union of His Second Term

President Donald Trump will deliver the 2026 State of the Union address on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 9:00 p.m. ET. Although the president addressed Congress in 2025, it was not considered a formal State of the Union; therefore, this speech will serve as his first of the new term.

It is expected that Trump will focus on immigration enforcement and ongoing ICE operations in major cities, economic and affordability messaging as well as the legislative priorities he aims to push through in a divided and conflict-ridden Congress.

Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger was selected to deliver the Democratic rebuttal to Trump's upcoming State of the Union address. Some Democrats announced plans to boycott the address, instead holding a rally on the National Mall. Republicans expressed concern that a potential DHS funding lapse could overshadow the event.