Advocating for the Signatory Finishing Industry
FCA INTERNATIONAL
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This Week in Congress!
The House returned to Washington this week for votes through Thursday before the August recess. Republican leadership plans to advance six major measures, including the FY 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 8800), a continuing resolution to fund the government from October 1 to December 4, and the FY 2027 budget resolution. Additional floor action included bills to reauthorize Social Security disability pilot programs (H.R. 8884), modernize community bank regulations (H.R. 6955), and prohibit stock trading by members of Congress and their families (H.R. 7008).

The House also considered 24 additional bills, including legislation updating federal rules for online campaign donations (H.R. 8720), thirteen Energy and Commerce measures reauthorizing public health and biomedical programs, and seven Oversight and Government Reform bills focused on procurement and contracting reforms. The chamber adjourned Thursday and will return August 31.

Senate Agenda Centers on Nominations and Potential Russia Sanctions
The Senate prioritized confirmation votes on pending administration nominees and considered legislation originally championed by the late Sen. Graham (R-SC) that would impose additional sanctions on Russia and could include related sanctions targeting Iran.

With both chambers preparing to leave for the August recess, members face an ambitious agenda that includes defense authorization, government funding, budget reconciliation, and a series of bipartisan policy measures before Congress adjourns.

The Senate has returned to its full complement of members following the appointment of Darline Graham Nordone to fill the seat previously held by her late brother, Sen. Graham (R-SC). Nordone was sworn in on July 14, restoring the Senate's party breakdown to 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats.

FCA International Urges Congress to Protect Infrastructure Funding and Advance Long-Term Reauthorization
As Congress prepared to consider a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to keep the federal government funded beyond September 30, FCA International, along with the Construction Transportation Coalition, urged lawmakers to maintain full federal investment in surface transportation programs and avoid disruptions to critical infrastructure projects.

In a letter sent July 21 to House Speaker Johnson (R-LA), House Minority Leader Jeffries (D-NY), House Appropriations Committee Chairman Cole (R-OK), and Ranking Member DeLauro (D-CT), it was emphasized that uninterrupted federal transportation funding is essential to maintaining the nation's infrastructure pipeline and supporting economic growth. The organizations acknowledged the importance of Congress acting quickly to prevent a government shutdown but cautioned against using a continuing resolution to reduce or alter funding for surface transportation programs. They urged lawmakers to preserve the full Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 enacted funding levels, regardless of the original funding source, arguing that maintaining current investment levels would allow transportation projects to continue while Congress completes work on FY 2027 appropriations and a long-term surface transportation authorization bill.

Per the coalition, even temporary changes to transportation funding or policy could create significant uncertainty for state departments of transportation, local governments, and project sponsors that rely on predictable federal funding to plan and execute long-term infrastructure investments. Such uncertainty, the groups warned, could delay safety improvements, disrupt project delivery, increase construction costs, and create broader economic impacts throughout the transportation supply chain.

Beyond preserving current funding, the organizations called on House leadership to bring the bipartisan BUILD America 250 Act to the House floor as soon as possible. They argued that a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization would provide states, contractors, and local communities with the long-term certainty needed to plan, finance, and deliver major infrastructure projects efficiently.

The letter concludes by urging Congress to avoid unnecessary disruptions to ongoing transportation projects while negotiations continue over government funding. If a short-term continuing resolution proves necessary, the organizations said lawmakers should use the additional time to complete work on the BUILD America 250 Act and provide the stable, predictable federal investment that transportation agencies, contractors, workers, and communities depend upon.

House Launches Effort on Third Budget Reconciliation Package

House Republicans moved forward with the first procedural steps toward advancing a third budget reconciliation package, signaling another attempt to enact major spending priorities through the budget resolution process. Last week, the House Budget Committee approved and reported a Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget resolution that would direct four committees—Agriculture, Armed Services, Intelligence, and House Administration—to develop legislation authorizing up to $95 billion in new spending.

Under the proposal, approximately $12 billion would be allocated to agricultural programs, $73 billion would support defense initiatives, and $10 billion would fund election administration programs tied to a scaled-back version of the SAVE America Act. Those funds would provide incentives for states to strengthen voter identification and citizenship verification efforts.

Notably, the budget resolution does not include any revenue-generating provisions or spending offsets to reduce the impact on the federal deficit.

Several Senate Republicans have expressed reservations about pursuing another reconciliation package, citing concerns over the politically difficult "vote-a-rama" process. During those extended amendment sessions, senators may offer an unlimited number of amendments, creating opportunities for politically sensitive votes ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.

Beyond procedural hurdles, Republicans continue to debate whether another reconciliation bill would accomplish enough to justify the political effort required for passage. Under current Senate budget rules, key provisions of the SAVE America Act would likely be ineligible for inclusion in a reconciliation bill under the Byrd Rule. In addition, the proposal falls short of funding levels sought by the Department of Defense for supplemental FY 2026 priorities and does not include the additional $350 billion in FY 2027 defense funding requested separately by the White House.

Congress Advances FY 2027 Appropriations While Preparing for Continuing Resolution

Congress continued work on Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 government funding last week as the House approved its third appropriations measure of the year, providing funding for national security and Department of State programs. With the current fiscal year set to end on September 30, House Republican leaders are now shifting their focus to avoiding a government shutdown by advancing a short-term continuing resolution (CR). Leadership plans to bring a "clean" CR to the House floor this week that would extend federal funding at FY 2026 levels through December 4, providing Congress additional time to complete the annual appropriations process.

Moving a continuing resolution this early in the appropriations cycle is unusual. However, House Republican leaders appear intent on addressing government funding well before the September deadline, potentially setting the stage for broader negotiations with Senate Democrats and the White House ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.

Meanwhile, the Senate is coordinating with the White House on its own approach to the stopgap funding bill. Senate negotiators are considering whether to include funding "anomalies"—targeted adjustments that modify FY 2026 funding levels or provide temporary authority for specific federal programs. Those discussions suggest the Senate is likely to amend any continuing resolution approved by the House and advance its own version, setting up negotiations between the two chambers before final passage.

With appropriations work continuing and differences emerging over the structure of a temporary funding bill, Congress faces another round of negotiations as lawmakers work to keep the federal government funded beyond the end of the fiscal year.

House Prepares to Consider FY 2027 National Defense Authorization Act

The House passed its version of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), advancing a $1.15 trillion defense policy measure that now heads to the Senate for further action. The bill cleared the chamber in a narrow 216–212 vote, with six Democrats joining most Republicans in support and seven Republicans voting against it.

This year’s NDAA debate was notably contentious. House Republican leadership structured the rule to allow votes on several socially conservative amendments, aiming to consolidate support within the party’s conservative wing. Democratic opposition centered on the bill’s unprecedented topline authorization—roughly $1.15 trillion for defense programs—as well as concerns over partisan policy riders.

The House-passed bill includes a proposed 5% to 7% pay raise for service members, expanded education and childcare access for military families, and major investments in aircraft development, shipbuilding, and military construction. It authorizes $28.6 billion for military construction and family housing, along with provisions strengthening supply chains, depot modernization, and the broader defense industrial base. Republican leadership also attached a Motion to Instruct Conferees incorporating the SAVE America Act—a move consistent with their strategy of pairing election-related provisions with major legislative vehicles.

Across the Capitol, progress on the Senate’s version of the NDAA remains stalled. Senate Democrats blocked consideration of their chamber’s bill last week, citing the need for additional oversight and constraints on presidential authority related to ongoing military operations involving Iran. With the House’s passage complete and the Senate yet to advance its own bill, negotiations over the FY 2027 NDAA are expected to extend into the fall. Lawmakers will need to reconcile significant policy differences while working to preserve the longstanding bipartisan tradition of enacting an annual defense authorization.

Trump Administration Announces Executive Actions on Defense Supply Chains, Aluminum Imports, and Canadian Trade

President Trump announced a series of executive actions aimed at strengthening U.S. defense supply chains, modifying aluminum import policies, and imposing additional duties in response to what the Administration describes as discriminatory Canadian trade practices.

The White House released an Executive Order titled "Securing America's Defense Supply Chains and Ensuring Domestic Acquisition of Critical Materials." Per the White House, the order is intended to increase domestic sourcing of critical materials and strengthen the resilience of supply chains supporting the nation's defense industrial base. The Administration also issued a proclamation titled "Further Strengthening Actions Taken to Adjust Imports of Aluminum Into the United States."

In addition, President Trump signed three separate proclamations imposing additional duties on certain imports from Canada. The proclamations address Canadian trade practices affecting dairy products, alcoholic beverages, and motor vehicles

The views of the tariffs are wide ranging. “Trump is hell-bent on raising your prices,” said Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA), who labeled this latest round of duties a ‘nationwide sales tax." Rep. Lance Gooden (R-TX) claimed, “Donald Trump’s strategic tariffs are ending decades of unfair trade practices."

Summer Break

The Senate will be at work for the next two weeks, while the House left town yesterday to resume its Hot Girl Summer - with lawmakers not due back for legislative business until August 31.