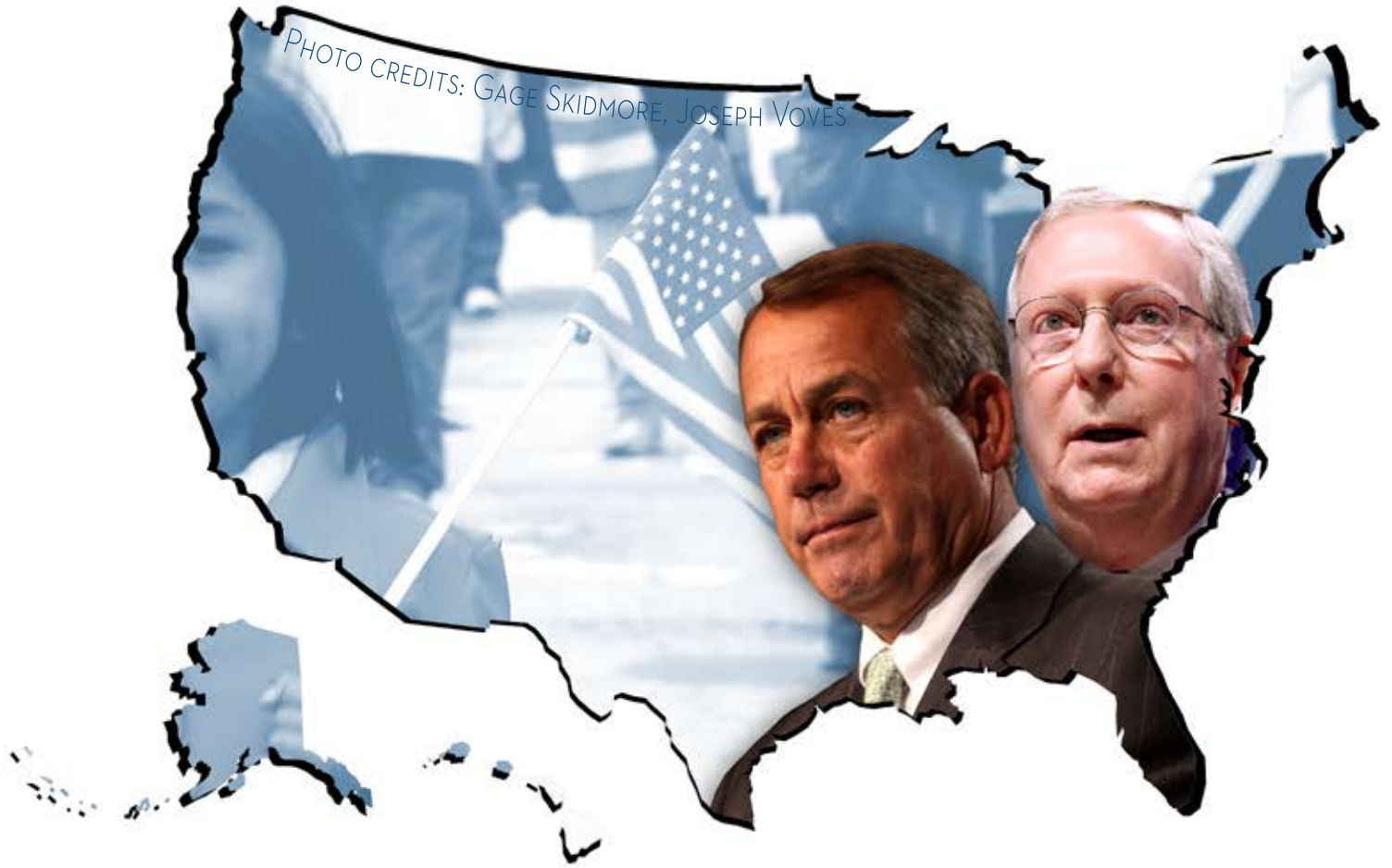


# TAKING (EXECUTIVE) ACTION

GOP'S LEADERSHIP FAILURE LEAVES  
IMMIGRATION UP TO OBAMA

PHOTO CREDITS: GAGE SKIDMORE, JOSEPH VOVES



**BRIDGE  
PROJECT**

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## Introduction

In a press conference following the midterm elections, President Obama reaffirmed his intention to use executive action to begin tackling our nation's immigration problem. New [media reports](#) shed light on private negotiations on immigration reform between President Obama and House Speaker John Boehner that began soon after the 2012 election. Speaker Boehner was likely feeling the pressure after a Republican National Committee-commissioned "autopsy report" of their electoral losses declared their party "must embrace and champion comprehensive immigration reform" in order to win future elections.

As the year-long negotiations progressed, Speaker Boehner needed political cover to maneuver within his party, prompting President Obama to continue to compromise in pursuit of House support for the already-passed bipartisan Senate immigration bill:

- 1) No public criticism of Republicans members on immigration policy
- 2) No trips in 2013 to battleground states with large Hispanic populations
- 3) Back piecemeal reforms rather than one big bill overhauling immigration policy
- 4) Defer executive action until after the summer

After what seemed to be a good faith effort by both sides, Speaker Boehner, yet again, just couldn't deliver the votes, particularly from the extreme Tea Party members of his caucus. To further impede the process, the Republicans apparently reversed course on the necessity of immigration reforms after their recent electoral gains. When Speaker Boehner and future Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell released outlines of their upcoming legislative agendas, immigration reform wasn't included. Similarly, even Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican National Committee, [backed away](#) from the idea of compromise.

The inflammatory rhetoric of the GOP, including talk of lawsuits and impeachment, would have you believe that Obama is running roughshod over the Constitution, but that's simply not the case. President Obama has signed *fewer* executive orders than any president since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and multiple Republican presidents have *explicitly* used executive action to address immigration issues.

For example, President Ronald Reagan used executive action in 1987 to ease immigration standards for 200,000 Nicaraguan exiles in the United States, even if their requests for asylum had already been denied. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush protected Chinese students who feared persecution if sent back to their homeland, and he later delayed the deportation of hundreds of Kuwaitis who were evacuated during the Iraqi occupation. President George W. Bush granted "temporary protected status" to as many as 150,000 Salvadorans after a devastating earthquake in 2001. The next year, he signed an executive order that expedited naturalization for green card holders who enlisted in the military.

It continues to be clear from recent reporting that President Obama went above and beyond to work with Speaker Boehner on immigration reform. Despite years of good faith efforts by President Obama, Boehner recently "warned that unilateral action by President Barack Obama would 'poison the well' for any cooperation with the new GOP Congress." Yet they leave the president no choice. With no hope for Republican action on the horizon, President Obama must use his executive authority to address the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in our country.

## Broken Immigration System And Humanitarian Crisis At The Border Require Swift Action

### PRESIDENT NEEDS TO USE EXECUTIVE POWER TO REFORM THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

**President Obama To Take Executive Action On Immigration After Republicans Fail To Address Issue:** According to USA Today, "Now that Congress is on August recess without any action on immigration, many people are speculating on what Obama might do — or try do — on the politically charged issue. There will likely be two sets of major Obama announcements in the coming weeks or months: One addressing the recent influx of migrants from Central America, the other on the immigration system overall. The president is likely to act sooner on the Central American migrants, many of

whom are children. In his news conference on Friday, Obama talked about re-allocating resources to move more agents, detention centers, and immigration judges to the border as soon as possible. Obama is also looking at executive actions on the overall immigration system, given the fact that Congress cannot agree on a 'comprehensive' immigration bill." [USA Today, [8/3/14](#)]

**President Obama: "Without Additional Resources And Help From Congress We're Just Not Going To Have The Resources To Fully Solve The Problem."** According to Politico, "President Barack Obama blasted congressional Republicans Friday for failing to craft a workable response to the border crisis before leaving Washington for their summer recess, setting the stage for executive actions to address the surge in child migrants from Central America. 'I'm going to have to act alone because we don't have enough resources,' the president said. 'Without additional resources and help from Congress we're just not going to have the resources to fully solve the problem.... While they're out on vacation, I'm going to have to make some tough choices to meet the challenge.'" [Politico, [8/1/14](#)]

## **OBAMA'S ACTIONS ARE NEEDED IN THE FACE OF CONGRESSIONAL INACTION DURING THIS CRISIS**

**More Than 57,000 Unaccompanied Children From Central America Have Reached The US Border "Fleeing Violence And Extortion."** According to the Associated Press, "The Obama administration has said it will move quickly to process thousands of immigrant children and families arriving on the Texas border fleeing violence and extortion from gangs in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Since October, more than 57,000 unaccompanied children have reached the U.S., prompting the government to set up temporary shelters and fly immigrants to other states to be processed. Officials have asked Congress for \$3.7 billion in emergency funding to cope with the crisis, including the hiring of more judges." [Associated Press, [7/12/14](#)]

**"The Court System Is So Overwhelmed" That It Can "Take Three Years To Get A Hearing, And Many Believe The Delays Will Only Get Worse."** According to the Associated Press, "The scene is one that could become more common as the country's already backlogged immigration courts brace for a deluge of tens of thousands of Central American children arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border in recent months. The court system is so overwhelmed that it can currently take three years to get a hearing, and many believe the delays will only get worse in the months ahead. For many immigrants, the delays in the court system work in their favor because they know they have so long before their cases are resolved." [Associated Press, [7/12/14](#)]

**President Obama Requested \$3.7 Billion To "Cope With The Humanitarian Crisis On The Border."** According to ABC News, "President Obama today is requesting \$3.7 billion to cope with the humanitarian crisis on the border and the spike in illegal crossings by unaccompanied minors from Central America." [ABC News, [7/8/14](#)]

- **About Half Of The Funding Would Go To Providing Care For The Children...The Rest Would Be Spent On Increased Security, Additional Judges And To "Tackle The Root Causes" Of The Crisis.** According to ABC News, "Roughly half of the funding would go to the Department of Health and Human Services to provide care for the surge of children crossing the border, including additional beds. The rest would be split between several departments to tackle the issue on both sides of the border, including \$1.6 billion to the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice to boost law enforcement at the Southwest border and pay for additional immigration judge teams, among other things, and \$300 million to the State Department to tackle the root causes of this crisis and to send a clear message to these countries not to send children illegally to the U.S." [ABC News, [7/8/14](#)]

## **BOWING TO CRUZ, KING, AND BACHMANN, HOUSE GOP PASSED BILL TO INCREASE DEPORTATIONS AND HALT DREAMERS PROGRAM**

**The House GOP Passed A Bill "To Crack Down On Central American Migrants."** According to Reuters, "Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives voted on Friday to crack down on Central American migrants, including unaccompanied children, who are flooding to the U.S. border with Mexico, as lawmakers passed a \$694 million border security bill." [Reuters, [8/2/14](#)]

- **After Abandoning The Bill "In The Face Of Opposition From A Tea Party Faction" Led By Sen. Ted Cruz, The House Eventually Passed A "Beefed Up" Version.** According to the Houston Chronicle, "Rebounding from the

previous day's dust-up between GOP leaders and their tea party wing, the Republican caucus rallied around a beefed-up, \$694 million border bill that conservative lawmakers can take to their supporters in the run-up to the November midterm elections. The 223-189 vote came on the first day of a scheduled five-week congressional break, making it unlikely that the Senate will even consider the GOP legislative package until lawmakers return in September. The new Republican plan is a beefed-up, \$694 million rewrite of the bill GOP leaders abandoned Thursday in the face of opposition from a tea party faction led by Texas U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz.” [Houston Chronicle, [8/1/14](#)]

- **Speaker Boehner Was “Pressured Into Attaching A Cruz-Inspired Bill That Would Halt The Administration's Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals Program.”** According to the Chicago Tribune, “House Speaker John A. Boehner was always expected to have trouble passing emergency funds for the crisis at the Southwestern border -- but Republican Sen. Ted Cruz made his job impossible. [...] Ultimately, Boehner was pressured into attaching a Cruz-inspired bill that would halt the administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program giving 500,000 young immigrants legal status if they remain in school or join the military. Cruz had similar legislation in the Senate but was unable to get a vote in that chamber. With a push from Cruz, the effort shifted to the House, where the bill also would have blocked any future legalization programs President Obama has promised to deliver later this year.” [Chicago Tribune, [7/31/14](#)]

#### **House Bill Only Authorized \$694 Million In Funding As Opposed To The \$2.7 Billion Proposed By The Senate.**

According to CNN, “In a late-night vote after a bitterly partisan debate, the House of Representatives passed a \$694 million border bill Friday, but the measure has no chance of becoming law. [...] The bill proposes to give the Department of Homeland Security more than \$400 million for additional border security and law enforcement measures. It would allocate more than \$20 million to speed up the deportation process by accelerating the judicial process, and also would set aside millions for National Guard border efforts and temporary housing for unaccompanied minors, among other things. [...] Three weeks ago, Obama had asked Congress for \$3.7 billion in emergency funds to help process the unaccompanied children at the border and boost border security. The Senate Democrats' plan called for \$2.7 billion, but it failed to advance.” [CNN, [8/2/14](#)]

#### **House Bill Also “Seeks To Expedite Deportations Of Central American Children” By Revising An Anti-Sex Trafficking Law.**

According to Bloomberg, “The House bill passed tonight, though, seeks to expedite deportations of Central American children by revising a 2008 law that was enacted to protect them from sex trafficking. It would allow such children to be immediately returned to their home country if they leave voluntarily. Those who don't volunteer to be deported would be given a hearing within 14 days. Lawmakers removed a provision that Representative John Carter, a Texas Republican, said could have given Mexican children an increased chance of remaining in the U.S.” [Bloomberg, [8/1/14](#)]

### **GOP Leadership Furious That President Responds To Their Inaction**

#### **BOEHNER: WITH EXECUTIVE ACTION, OBAMA WILL BE “SEALING THE DEAL ON HIS LEGACY OF LAWLESSNESS”**

**House Speaker John Boehner On Immigration Executive Order: “If The President Takes These Actions, He'll Be Sealing The Deal On His Legacy Of Lawlessness...”** According to Reuters, “House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner said on Thursday that any unilateral steps by President Barack Obama on immigration would make matters worse and add to a ‘legacy of lawlessness.’ ‘No more unilateral action by the president,’ Boehner said at a news conference. ‘If the president takes these actions, he'll be sealing the deal on his legacy of lawlessness,’ he said. ‘He'll be violating the solemn oath he made to the American people on the day of his inauguration.’” [Reuters.com, [7/31/14](#)]

- **...But Boehner Demanded Obama Take Action After House Immigration Bill Stalls.** According to a press release from the Speaker's office, “This situation shows the intense concern within our conference – and among the American people – about the need to ensure the security of our borders and the president's refusal to faithfully execute our laws. There are numerous steps the president can and should be taking right now, without the need for congressional action, to secure our borders and ensure these children are returned swiftly and safely to their countries.” [Speaker.gov, 7/31/14]

**Rand Paul: Executive Order On Immigration Will “Poison The Well.”** According to the Lexington Herald-Leader, “U.S. Sen. Rand Paul said Tuesday that President Barack Obama's plan to use executive orders to change immigration policy will ‘poison the well’ on any future compromise, although most in Washington have concluded that well is bone dry. Paul, who has



been an outspoken opponent of expanded presidential authority, told reporters after a speech Tuesday that Obama's plan to act without Congress will 'kill immigration reform and further polarize the country.'" [Lexington Herald-Leader, [7/1/14](#)]

**Sen. Marco Rubio: Obama's Promise To Use Executive Authority Is "Borderline Unconstitutional."** According to Politico, "In his State of the Union address Tuesday night, President Barack Obama said if Congress won't help him get things done, he'll do it on his own — and congressional Republicans aren't pleased. Many in the GOP said they don't intend to sit quietly if Obama starts signing executive orders. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) had sharp criticism for the president's expanded authority. 'I think it's unfortunate, I think it's divisive and quite frankly, borderline unconstitutional on many of those issues,' Rubio said." [Politico, [1/29/14](#)]

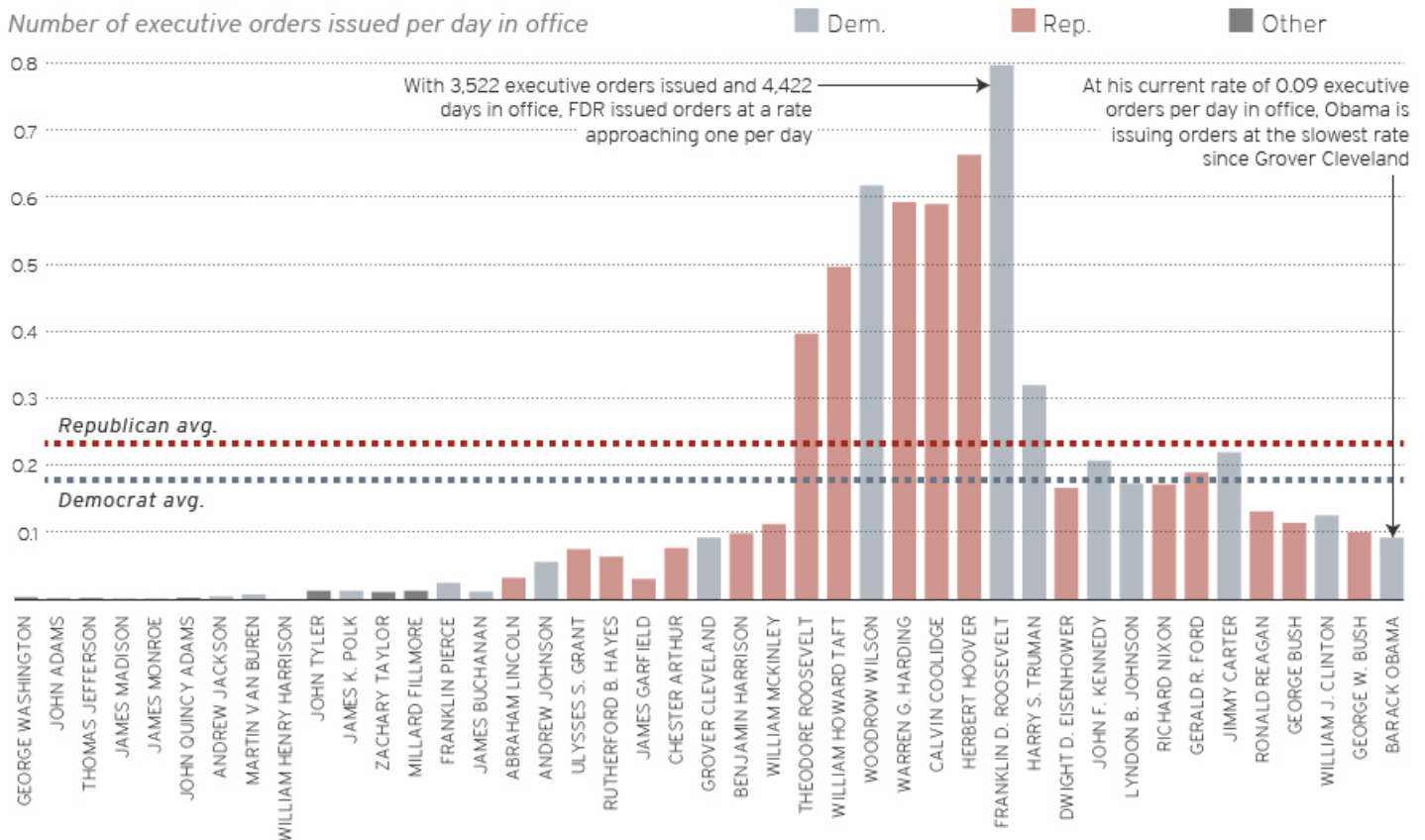
**Sen. Ted Cruz: Obama's Promise To Use Executive Authority "Threatens The Liberty Of Every American."** According to CNSNews.com, "When asked by CNSNews.com whether President Barack Obama has the constitutional authority to act on climate change without congressional approval, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) said that Obama's disregard for the Constitution 'threatens the liberty of every American...Over and over again this president has disregarded the law, has disregarded the Constitution and has asserted presidential power that simply doesn't exist and that ought to worry regardless of whether you agree with his policies or not,' Cruz said ahead of Obama's State of the Union address on Tuesday at the Capitol." [CNSNews.com, [1/28/14](#)]

## **Despite Claims Of "Lawlessness," Obama Has Relied On Executive Orders Far Less Than Predecessors**

**Washington Post: Last President To Use So Few Executive Actions Was Grover Cleveland.** According to the Washington Post, "[A] review of Obama's use of executive orders shows he's signed them at the lowest rate since the 19th Century. The last president to use so few executive actions was Grover Cleveland. [...] But it's also clear that Obama is not just throwing around executive orders willy-nilly. In fact, to this point, the former constitutional law professor has been pretty hesitant to exercise/test his executive authority." [Washington Post, [1/31/14](#)]

# A history of executive orders

Number of executive orders issued per day in office



Graphic by Christopher Ingraham. Executive order tallies from the American Presidency Project. Days served from Wikipedia.

Note: Grover Cleveland's two non-consecutive terms were merged together for the purposes of this chart.

## BARACK OBAMA

**President Obama Has Issued Only 185 Executive Orders Between 2009 And 2014.** According to the Federal Register, President Obama has issued 185 Executive Orders. [FederalRegister.gov, Viewed [8/5/14](#)]

**President Obama's Yearly Average Of About 34 Executive Orders "Is Lower Than Any President In 130 Years."**

According to Newsweek, "In fact, Obama's yearly average of 33.58 executive orders is lower than any president in 130 years, going back to Chester Arthur, who averaged 27.7 executive orders a year." [Newsweek.com, [6/29/14](#)]

## GEORGE W. BUSH

**George W. Bush Issued 291 Executive Orders During His Two Terms In Office.** According to PBS Newshour, "George W. Bush (291), Bill Clinton (364), Ronald Reagan (381) and even Jimmy Carter (320), who served just four years, all issued more orders. Four American presidents issued more than 1,000 executive orders. Franklin Delano Roosevelt used executive actions the most with 3,522 in his three terms — 19 times what Obama has done." [PBS.org/Newshour, [6/18/14](#)]

**George W. Bush Signed An Average Of About 36 Executive Orders Per Year.** According to the American Presidency Project, George W. Bush signed a yearly average of 36.38 executive orders. [[Presidency.ucsb.edu](#), [7/20/14](#)]

**Bush's Signing Statements "Came At A Time When Congress Was Giving Him Everything He Wanted."** According to the New York Times, "Mr. Bush's signing statements not only amounted to a significant usurpation of power, but they came at a time when Congress was giving him everything he wanted. Congress passed the deeply flawed Patriot Act and authorized the invasion of Iraq. It even gave its retroactive approval to warrantless wiretapping. Mr. Bush also achieved many of his domestic policy goals, including tax breaks that mostly benefited the richest Americans." [New York Times, [4/23/12](#)]

## BILL CLINTON

**Bill Clinton Issued 364 Executive Orders During His Two Terms In Office.** According to PBS Newshour, “George W. Bush (291), Bill Clinton (364), Ronald Reagan (381) and even Jimmy Carter (320), who served just four years, all issued more orders. Four American presidents issued more than 1,000 executive orders. Franklin Delano Roosevelt used executive actions the most with 3,522 in his three terms — 19 times what Obama has done.” [PBS.org/Newshour, [6/18/14](#)]

**Bill Clinton Signed An Average Of About 46 Executive Orders Per Year.** According to the American Presidency Project, Bill Clinton signed a yearly average of 45.50 executive orders. [[Presidency.ucsb.edu](#), [7/20/14](#)]

## GEORGE H.W. BUSH

**George H.W. Bush Issued 166 Executive Orders During His One Term In Office.** According to the American Presidency Project, George Bush signed 166 executive orders. [[Presidency.ucsb.edu](#), [7/20/14](#)]

**George H.W. Bush Signed An Average Of About 42 Executive Orders Per Year.** According to the American Presidency Project, George Bush signed a yearly average of 41.50 executive orders. [[Presidency.ucsb.edu](#), [7/20/14](#)]

## RONALD REAGAN

**Ronald Reagan Issued 381 Executive Orders During His Two Terms In Office.** According to PBS Newshour, “George W. Bush (291), Bill Clinton (364), Ronald Reagan (381) and even Jimmy Carter (320), who served just four years, all issued more orders. Four American presidents issued more than 1,000 executive orders. Franklin Delano Roosevelt used executive actions the most with 3,522 in his three terms — 19 times what Obama has done.” [PBS.org/Newshour, [6/18/14](#)]

**Ronald Regan Signed An Average Of About 48 Executive Orders Per Year.** According to the American Presidency Project, Ronald Reagan signed a yearly average of 47.63 executive orders. [[Presidency.ucsb.edu](#), [7/20/14](#)]

## JIMMY CARTER

**Jimmy Carter Issued 320 Executive Orders During His One Term In Office.** According to PBS Newshour, “George W. Bush (291), Bill Clinton (364), Ronald Reagan (381) and even Jimmy Carter (320), who served just four years, all issued more orders. Four American presidents issued more than 1,000 executive orders. Franklin Delano Roosevelt used executive actions the most with 3,522 in his three terms — 19 times what Obama has done.” [PBS.org/Newshour, [6/18/14](#)]

**Jimmy Carter Signed An Average Of 80 Executive Orders Per Year.** According to the American Presidency Project, Jimmy Carter signed a yearly average of 80 executive orders. [[Presidency.ucsb.edu](#), [7/20/14](#)]

## FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

**Franklin Delano Roosevelt Issued 3,522 Executive Orders During His Three Terms In Office.** According to PBS Newshour, “Franklin Delano Roosevelt used executive actions the most with 3,522 in his three terms — 19 times what Obama has done.” [PBS.org/Newshour, [6/18/14](#)]

**Franklin Delano Roosevelt Signed An Average Of About 291 Executive Orders Per Year.** According to the American Presidency Project, Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed a yearly average of 290.71 executive orders. [[Presidency.ucsb.edu](#), [7/20/14](#)]

## Past Presidents, Including Reagan And Both Bushs, Often Used Executive Action To Address Immigration

**Reagan In 1987: Government “Easing Immigration Standards For The 200,000 Nicaraguan Exiles In The United States.”** According to the Associated Press, “The Reagan Administration announced today that it was easing immigration



standards for the 200,000 Nicaraguan exiles in the United States, including those whose requests for asylum were turned down and who face deportation. After consulting with the White House, Attorney General Edwin Meese 3d [sic] signed an order saying that no Nicaraguan who has a well-founded fear of persecution will be deported and that those seeking a work authorization will be entitled to one.” [New York Times via AP, [7/9/87](#)]

**Bush Sr. In 1990: Executive Order Protected Chinese Students Who Feared Persecution If Sent Back To China.**

According to the New York Times, “President Bush said today that he would issue an executive proclamation to formalize and broaden the measures he ordered late last year to help Chinese students extend their stays in the United States. The move, announced at a convention of newspaper editors, came in response to criticism from members of Congress and others who said Mr. Bush had failed to issue the proclamation as he promised to do after vetoing a bill to protect the Chinese students. [...] After vetoing the bill on Chinese students in December, Mr. Bush said he was issuing an executive order to make it easier for students fearing persecution by the Beijing Government to remain in the United States. An executive order is a formal document that is printed in the Federal Register and has the force of law.” [New York Times, [4/7/90](#)]

**Bush Sr. In 1991: Executive Order Delayed Deportation For Hundreds Of Kuwaiti Residents For Four Years.**

According to the Los Angeles Times, “President Bush announced a four-year reprieve Friday for hundreds of Kuwaiti residents who were evacuated to the United States last year during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait but faced possible deportation from this country after the expiration of their temporary visas in December. The presidential order, similar to one issued for Chinese students after the Tian An Men Square crackdown in 1989, will allow most of the former Kuwait residents to live and work in the United States until Jan. 1, 1996.” [Los Angeles Times, [11/16/91](#)]

**Bush Sr. In 1992: Executive Order Made Repatriation “Automatic” For Haitians Coming To The United States, Including Those With “Potentially Valid Claim To Refugee Status.”**

According to The New York Times, “In the three weeks before President George Bush started the new policy in May 1992, the Coast Guard picked up 10,497 Haitians heading for the United States in 127 boats. [...] Under the previous practice, the Haitians were interviewed aboard ship and would not be returned if they had a potentially valid claim to refugee status. Once that changed and repatriation became automatic, the human flood dropped to a trickle.” [New York Times, [6/22/93](#)]

- **Federal Appeals Court Voided Bush’s Executive Order.** According to the New York Times, “A Federal appeals court in New York yesterday effectively voided President Bush's executive order of May that all Haitians fleeing their homeland be halted at sea and escorted back to Haiti. The court said that Haitians stopped at sea must be given the chance to state their reasons for fleeing Haiti, and to pursue political asylum in the United States if they appeared to have well-grounded fears of persecution.” [New York Times, [7/30/92](#)]
- **Supreme Court Ultimately Upheld The Policy Of “Intercepting Fleeing Haitians At Sea And Returning Them To Haiti Without Asylum Hearings.”** According to The New York Times, “The Supreme Court today upheld the Bush and Clinton Administrations' policy of intercepting fleeing Haitians at sea and returning them to Haiti without asylum hearings. The 8-to-1 decision, written by Justice John Paul Stevens with a dissent by Justice Harry A. Blackmun, concluded that the policy was permitted under Federal immigration law and an international treaty to which the United States is a party.” [New York Times, [6/22/93](#)]

**Clinton In 1993: Administration Grants 18-Month Extension Of Deferred Enforcement Departure Program, Which Gave “200,000 Salvadorans The Right To Legally Live And Work In The United States.”**

According to The Los Angeles Times, “Salvadoran residents and activists are praising the Clinton Administration for its 18-month extension of the Deferred Enforced Departure program, which gives 200,000 Salvadorans the right to legally live and work in the United States.” [Los Angeles Times, [5/30/93](#)]

**Clinton In 1997: President Uses “Executive Authority To Exempt Up To 20,000 Haitians For At Least A Year From Strict New Deportation Rules.”**

According to the New York Times, “President Clinton is expected in the next several days to invoke a rarely used executive authority to exempt up to 20,000 Haitians for at least a year from strict new deportation rules that would make it more difficult for most to stay here. The decision underscores a continuing clash on immigrant policy between the White House and the Republican Congress, with the President moving to roll back approved Congressional measures that he considers harsh.” [New York Times, [12/17/97](#)]

**Clinton In 1998: Government Temporarily Suspends Deportation To Hurricane-Ravaged Countries.** According to the New York Times, “Continuing a policy of trying to help Central American countries recover from a catastrophic hurricane,

the United States will not deport illegal immigrants from the nations hardest hit for at least 18 months, immigration officials said today. The temporary protection applies to an estimated 150,000 Nicaraguans and Hondurans, and is designed to give their countries economic 'breathing room,' the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Doris M. Meissner, said. The delay, during which some of the immigrants will be eligible to work in the United States, will afford more time for Central America's economy to recover from the late-season storm, Mrs. Meissner said." [New York Times, [12/31/98](#)]

**Bush Jr. In 2001: Government Gave "Temporary Protected Status" To As Many As 150,000 Salvadorans.** According to the New York Times, "President Bush agreed today to allow as many as 150,000 Salvadorans to remain in the United States for up to 18 months to help El Salvador recover from a series of devastating earthquakes earlier this year. Most of the Salvadorans are in this country without legal visas or work permits. President Francisco Flores of El Salvador had requested that the administration grant 'temporary protected status' to thousands of his countrymen living illegally here, saying that money they earn in the United States and send to relatives back home would be as valuable to rebuilding efforts as increased American aid. In a meeting with Mr. Flores at the White House today, Mr. Bush granted the request." [New York Times, [3/3/01](#)]

**Bush Jr. In 2002: Executive Order Expedited Naturalization For Green Card Holders Who Enlisted In Military.** According to the New York Times, "President Bush signed an executive order in July putting green card holders who enlist in the military on a fast track to becoming Americans. The order eliminated a three-year wait, let the soldiers seek citizenship immediately and applied to anyone on active duty as of Sept. 11, 2001." [New York Times, [4/4/03](#)]

- **George W. Bush Administration "Expanded" Prosecutorial Discretion Related To Deportations.** According to Mother Jones, "Bush officials didn't just embrace the idea that the government can prioritize whom to deport—they expanded it. 'The universe of opportunities to exercise prosecutorial discretion is large,' Bush immigration adviser William Howard wrote in a 2005 memo. Howard recommended letting people stay in the country when 'compelling reasons exist,' such as an unauthorized immigrant being a relative of a US servicemember or for 'sympathetic humanitarian factors.' Julie L. Myers, another Bush-era immigration official, issued another follow-up memo in 2007, advising immigration officials to consider letting people who had health problems or were taking care of sick relatives remain in the United States." [Mother Jones, [6/6/12](#)]

## Executive Orders Often Needed To Progress On Civil Rights

### IMPORTANT EXECUTIVE ORDERS

**1863: President Abraham Lincoln Issued Emancipation Proclamation To Free Slaves During Civil War.** According to the National Archives website, "President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, as the nation approached its third year of bloody civil war. The proclamation declared 'that all persons held as slaves' within the rebellious states 'are, and henceforward shall be free.'" [Archives.gov, Viewed [7/31/14](#)]

**1941: Executive Order 8802 Outlawed Racial Discrimination In Government And Defense Industry.** According to the Department of Labor, "As America geared up its industrial might for what proved to be its inevitable entrance into a global war, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt responded to leaders, such as A. Philip Randolph and Baynard Rustin, who protested that African-American workers were blocked from taking jobs in segregated war production factories. On June 25, 1941, FDR signed Executive Order 8802, outlawing discrimination based on race, color, creed and national origin in the federal government and defense industries." [Department of Labor, Viewed [8/1/14](#)]

- **1943: Executive Order 9346 Made Executive Order 8802 Applicable To Federal Contractors.** According to the Department of Labor, "In 1943, President Roosevelt broadened the coverage of Executive Order 8802 by making it applicable to all government contractors." [Department of Labor, Viewed [8/1/14](#)]

**1948: Executive Order 9981 Ended Racial Discrimination In Armed Forces.** According to the Truman Library, "President Truman signs Executive Order 9981, which states, 'It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin.' The order also establishes the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and opportunity in the Armed Services." [Truman Library, Viewed [8/1/14](#)]

**1954: Executive Order 10730 Sent 1,000 U.S. Army Paratroopers To Restore Order In Little Rock When Arkansas' Public Schools Were In The Process Of Desegregation.** According to OurDocuments.gov, “On May 17, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* that segregated schools were ‘inherently unequal’ and ordered that U.S. public schools be desegregated ‘with all deliberate speed.’ [...] A few days later, when nine African American students slipped into the school to enroll, a full-scale riot erupted. The situation was quickly out of control, as Governor Faubus failed to stop the violence. Finally, Congressman Brooks Hays and Little Rock Mayor Woodrow Mann asked the Federal Government for help, first in the form of U.S. marshals. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, as the chief law enforcement officer of the United States, was presented with a difficult problem. He was required to uphold the Constitution and the laws, but he also wanted to avoid a bloody confrontation in Arkansas. With Executive Order 10730, the President placed the Arkansas National Guard under Federal control and sent 1,000 U.S. Army paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division to assist them in restoring order in Little Rock.” [OurDocuments.gov, Viewed [8/1/14](#)]

**1961: Executive Order 10925 Required Government Contractors To Treat Employees “Without Regard To Their Race, Creed, Color Or National Origin.”** According to the U.S. Department of Labor website, “By the time John F. Kennedy was elected President, it was evident that to advance equal employment opportunity federal involvement needed to be broader and more proactive. On March 6, 1961, shortly after JFK took office, he signed Executive Order 10925, opening a new chapter in achieving access to good jobs by requiring government contractors to ‘take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, creed, color or national origin.’ Executive Order 10925 gave federal contracting agencies authority to institute procedures against federal contractors who violated their EEO obligations-including contract cancellation, debarment from future contracts and other sanctions. It also created the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, which upon passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 became the Equal Employment Opportunity Committee.” [DOL.gov, Viewed [8/1/14](#)]

**1962: Executive Order 11063 “Banned Federally Funded Housing Agencies From Denying Mortgages To Any Person Based On Race, Color, Creed Or National Origin.”** According to Politico, “On this day in 1962, President John F. Kennedy issued an executive order mandating an end to housing discrimination. The presidential order, which came in the midst of an upsurge in the civil rights movement, banned federally funded housing agencies from denying mortgages to any person based on race, color, creed or national origin. [...] Although Executive Order 11063 marked an important symbolic step in curbing de facto segregation in U.S. housing, the policies Kennedy espoused were not immediately enforced. His order left it up to the individual housing and funding agencies to police themselves. That left lots of room for noncompliance in states and localities with long histories of racial segregation.” [Politico.com, [11/20/08](#)]

**1965: Executive Order 11246 Prohibits Federal Contractors From Discrimination On Basis Of Race, Color, Religion, Sex, Or National Origin.** According to the Department of Labor, “The Executive Order 11246 (E.O 11246) prohibits federal contractors and subcontractors and federally-assisted construction contractors and subcontractors that generally have contracts that exceed \$10,000 from discriminating in employment decisions on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It also requires covered contractors to take affirmative action to ensure that equal opportunity is provided in all aspects of their employment.” [Department of Labor, Viewed [7/30/14](#)]

**2014: Executive Order Barring Employment Discrimination Against Gays.** According to the New York Times, “President Obama, declaring himself on ‘the right side of history,’ called on Congress on Monday to ban job discrimination against gay Americans as he signed an executive order doing so for workers of federal contractors. In a ceremony at the White House, Mr. Obama noted that in much of the country, companies can fire employees based on their sexual orientation. ‘That’s wrong,’ he said to an audience of supporters. ‘We’re here to do what we can to make it right — to bend that arc of justice just a little bit in a better direction.’” [New York Times, [7/21/14](#)]

## **President Obama’s Executive Actions Are Needed Because Of Do-Nothing Republicans In Congress**

### **“CONGRESS HAS CEASED TO OPERATE AS AN EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE BODY”**

**Op-Ed: Thomas Mann: “Congress Has Ceased To Operate As An Effective Legislative Body.”** According to an op-ed written by congressional scholar Thomas Mann, “With Barack Obama in the White House and Democrats and Republicans each controlling one chamber, Congress has ceased to operate as an effective legislative body.” [Mann Op-Ed – Atlantic,

[5/26/14\]](#)

- **Op-Ed: Thomas Mann & Norm Ornstein: “The Core Of The Problem Lies With The Republican Party.”** According to an op-ed written by congressional scholars Thomas Mann and Norm Ornstein, “We have been studying Washington politics and Congress for more than 40 years, and never have we seen them this dysfunctional. In our past writings, we have criticized both parties when we believed it was warranted. Today, however, we have no choice but to acknowledge that the core of the problem lies with the Republican Party.” [Ornstein and Mann Op-ed – Washington Post, [4/27/12](#)]

**Mitch McConnell: “Single Most Important Thing We Want To Achieve Is For President Obama To Be A One-Term President.”** According to CBSNews.com, “In his post-election Heritage Foundation speech, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said, ‘I re-extend an offer that’s been on the table for two years to cooperate on shared goals -- because ultimately this isn’t about an election; it’s about doing what’s best for our country.’ Prior to the Nov. 2 election, McConnell told the National Journal’s Major Garrett, ‘The single most important thing we want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term president.’” [CBSNews.com, [11/14/10](#)]

**Former GOP Sen. Bob Dole: “It Seems To Be Almost Unreal That We Can’t Get Together On A Budget Or Legislation.”** According to CBS News, “I think they ought to put a sign on the [Republican] national committee doors that says ‘closed for repairs’ until New Year’s Day next year and spend that time going over ideas and positive agendas,’ Dole said. [...] ‘It seems to be almost unreal that we can’t get together on a budget or legislation,’ Dole said, comparing today’s Congress unfavorably with the institution in which he served for decades. ‘We weren’t perfect by a long shot, but at least we got our work done.’” [CBS News, [5/26/13](#)]

## **THE 113TH CONGRESS IS ON TRACK TO BE THE “LEAST PRODUCTIVE EVER.”**

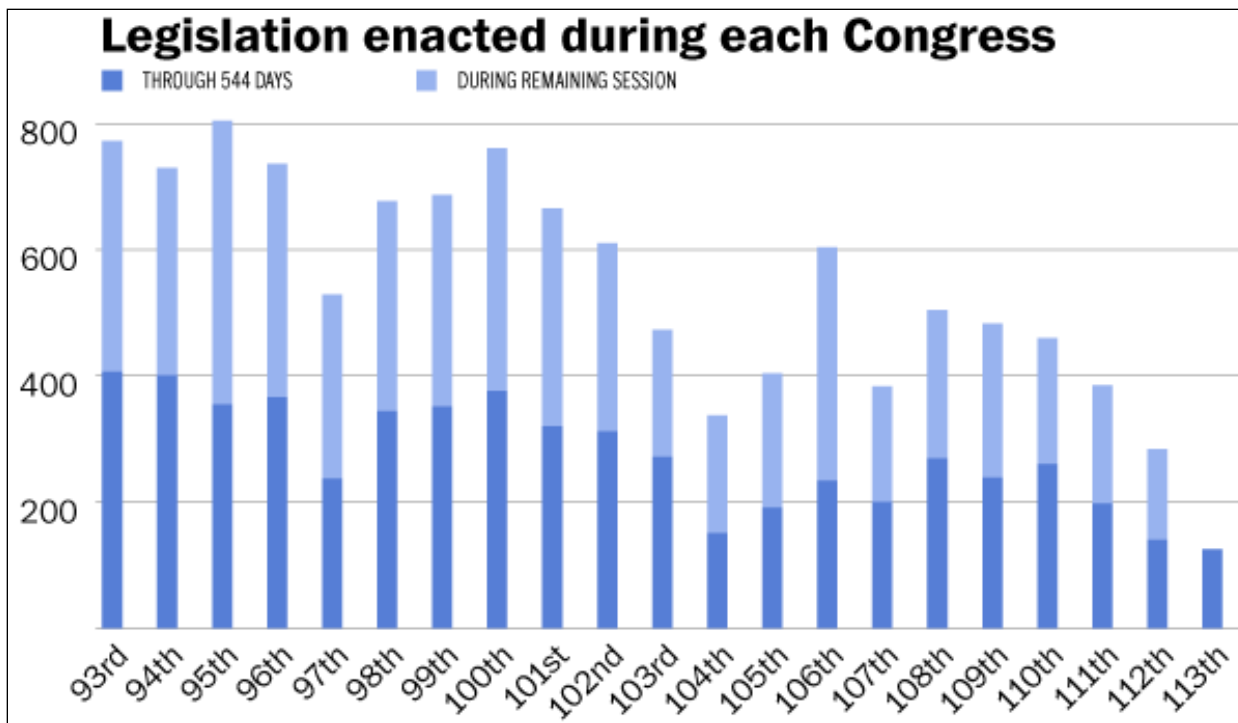
**The 113th Congress “Will Soon Officially Be The Least Productive Ever.”** According to The Fix blog on The Washington Post website, “With its August recess imminent and midterm elections following soon after, it’s regularly assumed that Congress is done for the year. And, therefore, the 113th Congress, barring a legislative miracle, will soon officially be the least productive ever.” [The Fix via WashingtonPost.com, [7/9/14](#)]

**The Hill: Major Bills Passed By This Congress “Nearly All ‘Must-Pass’ Measures Or Reauthorizations Of Existing Law.”** According to The Hill, “Capitol Hill’s reputation as the ‘do-nothing Congress’ is well-deserved. The current session of Congress is on track to pass historically fewer laws of substance, according to an analysis by The Hill. In fact, the major bills that have cleared the 113th Congress to date are nearly all ‘must-pass’ measures or reauthorizations of existing law.” [The Hill, [7/13/14](#)]

**John Boehner: “We Ought To Be Judged On How Many Laws We Repeal.”** According to NBC News, “Amid record-low productivity on Capitol Hill this year, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said Sunday that Congress should be judged on how many laws it repeals, rather than how many new laws lawmakers enact. ‘We should not be judged on how many new laws we create,’ the nation’s top elected Republican said on CBS. ‘We ought to be judged on how many laws we repeal.’” [NBC News, [7/21/14](#)]

**The 113th Congress Is On Track To Enact “More Than 10 Percent Fewer Bills Than The Last Congress — Which Earned The Distinction Of Enacting The Least Amount Of Legislation Since 1973.”** According to The Fix blog on The Washington Post website, “Somewhat surprisingly, only half of the laws enacted during a Congress are enacted during the first three-quarters of the session. [...] If you apply that average to the existing number of enacted laws from the 113th Congress, they’re on track to enact 251 laws in total — more than 10 percent fewer bills than the last Congress — which earned the distinction of enacting the least amount of legislation since 1973.” [The Fix via WashingtonPost.com, [7/9/14](#)]





[The Fix via WashingtonPost.com, [7/9/14](#)]

#### **Boston Globe: “Even The Infamous ‘Do Nothing Congress’ Of 1948 Did More” Than The 113th Congress.**

According to The Boston Globe, “Even the infamous ‘Do Nothing Congress’ of 1948 did more. Washington lawmakers this year have approved just 55 laws and, with only a handful of days left, will almost certainly go down as the least productive crop of legislators in modern history.” [Boston Globe, [12/4/13](#)]

- **Congress Passed 73 Bills In 2013, “The Least By 15 For Any Year Since 1947.”** According to PolitiFact Texas, “Next, we turned to the website for the clerk’s office, which offers one-page detailed numerical recaps of each year’s congressional proceedings dating back to 1947. According to the web page for 2013, 73 measures made it into law through the year. That was a low compared to previous low-end years including 1995 (88 bills passed into law); 2011 (90); 1981 (145); 1969 (190) and 2012 (193), according to the clerk’s web pages. [...] Some 73 bills made it into law in 2013, which was the least by 15 for any year since 1947.” [PolitiFact.com/Texas, [4/24/14](#)]

**In 2013, Congress Had “The Distinction Of Having Been At Work For The Fewest Hours In A Nonelection Year Since 2005.”** According to The New York Times, “According to data analyzed by The New York Times, the House of Representatives, which ended its business for the year last week, left town with the distinction of having been at work for the fewest hours in a nonelection year since 2005, when detailed information about legislative activity became available. [...] Not counting brief, pro forma sessions, the House was in session for 942 hours, an average of about 28 hours each week it conducted business in Washington. That is far lower than the nearly 1,700 hours it was in session in 2007, the 1,350 hours in 2005 or even the 1,200 in 2011.” [New York Times, [12/15/13](#)]

## **THE NUMBER OF FILIBUSTERS UNDER PRESIDENT OBAMA IS UNPRECEDENTED**

**PolitiFact: Blockages Under President Obama Account For “More Than Half” Of The Senate’s 150 Total Blocked Presidential Nominations.** According to PolitiFact, “The most recent of the two documents, a CRS memo, said, ‘In brief, out of the 168 cloture motions ever filed (or reconsidered) on nominations, 82 (49 percent) were cloture motions on nominations made since 2009. [...] By our calculation, there were actually 68 individual nominees blocked prior to Obama taking office and 79 (so far) during Obama’s term, for a total of 147. [...] Using these figures, blockages under Obama actually accounted for more than half of the total, not less than half. Either way, it’s disproportionate by historical standards.’” [PolitiFact.com, [11/21/13](#)]



**Norm Ornstein Op-Ed: Under Barack Obama's Presidency, "Republican Filibusters Or Threats Of Filibuster Escalated In Ways The Senate Had Never Seen Before."** According to an op-ed written by Norm Ornstein in the National Journal, "In 2007, with a new Democratic majority in Congress for the final two years of the Bush presidency, it was Republican filibusters that stymied Democrats trying to send legislation to Bush that he would be forced to veto. And with Barack Obama's presidency, Republican filibusters or threats of filibuster escalated in ways the Senate had never seen before." [National Journal, [5/14/14](#)]

## Republicans In Congress Refused To Address Pressing Issues

### IMMIGRATION

#### No Real Action From GOP On Immigration

**Senate Republicans "Blocked" The DREAM Act Of 2010.** According to ABC News, "Senate Republicans today blocked a controversial immigration measure that would have provided a conditional path to legal residency for hundreds of thousands of young, undocumented immigrants first brought to the U.S. illegally by their parents. By a vote of 55 to 41, the bill -- the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors, or DREAM Act -- failed to win the 60 votes needed to break a GOP filibuster, even though the measure passed the House last week." [ABCNews.go.com, [12/18/10](#)]

#### **In 2010 The DREAM Act "Failed To Win The 60 Votes Needed To Break A GOP Filibuster" In The Senate.**

According to ABC News, "By a vote of 55 to 41, the bill -- the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors, or DREAM Act -- failed to win the 60 votes needed to break a GOP filibuster, even though the measure passed the House last week. The defeat was the second for the legislation since 2007, when it last was brought to the Senate floor. Opponents have argued that the bill amounted to an 'amnesty' that could cost taxpayers and encourage continued illegal immigration." [ABC News, [12/18/10](#)]

**Senate Democrats Reintroduced The DREAM Act In 2011.** According to the New York Times, "On the heels of President Obama's renewed call to overhaul the nation's immigration laws in Texas on Tuesday, Senate Democrats are reintroducing a bill that would give legal status to some illegal immigrants who came into the United States as children. Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader, along with Senators Dick Durbin of Illinois and Robert Menendez of New Jersey, said the Senate will revive the Dream Act, one of the few signature pieces of Democratic legislation that failed during the lame-duck session of the last Congress, when Democrats controlled both chambers." [New York Times, [5/11/11](#)]

#### **Republican Senator Richard Lugar Dropped His Co-Sponsorship Of The DREAM Act When It Was Reintroduced.**

According to the Huffington Post, "Senate Democrats reintroduced the DREAM Act on Wednesday without the co-sponsorship of Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), who had previously been one of the bill's strongest backers. The legislation would allow some undocumented young people to become U.S. citizens and has been introduced repeatedly over the years with Lugar and Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) as the cosponsors. The most recent vote on the DREAM Act was in December, when it fell five votes short of bypassing a filibuster. Lugar was one of just three Republicans to vote for the measure." [Huffington Post, [5/12/11](#)]

- **Sen. Lugar Was Facing Pressure From The Tea Party To Oppose The DREAM Act.** According to CNN, "Hoping to head off a primary challenge from the right, Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Indiana, sat down with Tea Party leaders last month but did little to persuade them of his conservative credentials. [...] 'The Senator said he hoped he could earn the support of the Tea Party, and that he is conservative,' said Greg Fettig, the co-founder of Hoosier Patriots. Fettig was joined in the meeting by Monica Boyer of Kosciusko 'Silent No More,' a Tea Party group in northeast Indiana.. [...] Lugar and a pair of staffers discussed a range of federal issues, including the role of earmarks and the Federal Reserve. Fettig and Boyer objected to Lugar's sponsorship of the DREAM Act, his support for the ratification of the START nuclear arms treaty during the lame-duck session of Congress, and his votes to confirm Supreme Court Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan." [CNN, [1/5/11](#)]

#### **Republican Sen. John Cornyn On The DREAM Act: "We're Providing Incentive For Future Illegal Immigration."**

According to CNN, "Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas called for comprehensive immigration reforms that include stronger border security, rather than focusing on one aspect of the issue through the DREAM Act. 'This bill, sadly, does nothing to fix our broken immigration system,' Cornyn said. 'It may be worse that we're providing incentive for future illegal

immigration. This bill does nothing for border security, workplace enforcement, visa overstays, which account for about 40% of illegal immigration in this country. In other words it does nothing to reduce the likelihood of future illegal immigration.” [CNN, [6/28/11](#)]

**With No GOP Support “Forthcoming,” Democrats In The Senate Saw “No Possible Avenues” For Moving Immigration Legislation Forward.** According to the National Journal, “Modest hopes for congressional action on small immigration proposals are fading, as Democrats in the Senate see no possible avenues for moving them forward. Democratic leaders have effectively ruled out seeking a vote either on the Dream Act, which would give legal status to illegal-immigrant teens who join the military or go to college, or on similar legislation, according to Democratic aides familiar with the Senate floor plans. Chances aren’t much better for legislation addressing visas for skilled workers. [...] Despite optimism sparked by a modified Dream Act proposal from Rubio, Democrats and the White House believe no GOP support is forthcoming.” [National Journal, [6/5/12](#)]

**Instead Of Supporting The DREAM Act, Republicans Introduced Alternative Legislation That Didn’t Include A Pathway To Citizenship.** According to the Washington Post, “The measure — sponsored by Sen. John McCain (Ariz.), and retiring Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison (Tex.) and Jon Kyl (Ariz.) — would offer a Republican alternative to the so-called Dream Act, providing a pathway for young adults to apply for legal permanent residency — but not citizenship — if they have completed military service or higher education and have worked in the United States for at least four years.” [Washington Post, [11/27/12](#)]

### **President Obama Had To Respond With Executive Action**

**2012: Obama Administration Uses Existing Legal Authority To Allow Immigrants Who Came To The US As Children Remain In The Country.** According to the New York Times, “Hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants who came to the United States as children will be allowed to remain in the country without fear of deportation and able to work, under an executive action the Obama administration announced on Friday. Administration officials said the president used existing legal authority to make the broad policy change, which could temporarily benefit more than 800,000 young people. He did not consult with Congress, where Republicans have generally opposed measures to benefit illegal immigrants.” [New York Times, [6/15/12](#)]

**Christian Science Monitor: “The Policy Comes As A Relief For Thousands Of Young People Who Are Caught In A Difficult Situation Where They Consider The United States Home But Don’t Have Legal Residency.”** According to the Christian Science Monitor, “The policy comes as a relief for thousands of young people who are caught in a difficult situation where they consider the United States home but don’t have legal residency. It also should help President Obama — locked in a difficult reelection battle — with Latino voters, who have criticized the administration’s deportation policies.” [Christian Science Monitor, [6/15/12](#)]

**New Policy Will Help Young Immigrants Go To College And Find Employment.** According to the New York Times, “Illegal immigrants said the new policy would make a major difference in their lives. As students, when they graduate from high school, they often cannot go on to college because they are not eligible for financial aid and must pay higher tuition rates. If they do succeed in graduating from college, regardless of their academic accomplishments, they cannot be legally employed in the United States or obtain driver’s or professional licenses.” [New York Times, [6/15/12](#)]

### **Continued GOP Immigration Reform Obstruction**

**House Republicans “Rejected” Senate’s Bipartisan Comprehensive Immigration Bill In 2013, “Opting Instead To Pass Piecemeal Measures That Ultimately Stalled.”** According to Talking Points Memo, “House GOP leaders have been slowly dimming the chances of passing immigration reform, cautious to make sure pro-reformers couldn’t pinpoint one moment at which the GOP scuttled it. The approach, conscious or not, has been to gradually lower expectations such that no single development guarantees doom for the cause. But taken together, what emerges is a picture of a House Republican conference that simply doesn’t -- and never did -- have the appetite for broad reforms to help immigrants, especially those without papers. First they rejected the Senate’s bill, which tackled immigration reform in one comprehensive bill, opting instead to pass piecemeal measures that ultimately stalled.” [TalkingPointsMemo.com, [11/12/13](#)]

**TPM: House Republican Conference “Simply Doesn’t -- And Never Did -- Have The Appetite For Broad Reforms To Help Immigrants, Especially Those Without Papers.”** According to Talking Points Memo, “House GOP leaders have been slowly dimming the chances of passing immigration reform, cautious to make sure pro-reformers couldn’t pinpoint one

moment at which the GOP scuttled it. The approach, conscious or not, has been to gradually lower expectations such that no single development guarantees doom for the cause. But taken together, what emerges is a picture of a House Republican conference that simply doesn't -- and never did -- have the appetite for broad reforms to help immigrants, especially those without papers. First they rejected the Senate's bill, which tackled immigration reform in one comprehensive bill, opting instead to pass piecemeal measures that ultimately stalled." [TalkingPointsMemo.com, [11/12/13](#)]

**House Speaker Boehner Stated He Would Adhere To The So-Called Hastert Rule And Any Immigration Bill Would Need The Majority Of House Republicans' Support To Pass.** According to Politico, "For any legislation — including the conference report — to pass the House it's going to have to be a bill that has the support of the majority of our members," [Speaker John] Boehner told reporters Thursday. Here's what that means in practice: If the House passes piecemeal immigration bills, and then enters into a formal negotiation with the Senate, that product must have the support of the majority of the House's 234 Republicans. [...] Conservatives in Boehner's House Republican Conference have been pressuring him to adhere to the so-called Hastert rule, which says any bill that comes to the House floor must have a majority of the support of the majority party." [Politico, [6/27/13](#)]

**AP: The Senate Passed Immigration Bill "Has Fallen Into The Congressional Equivalent Of A Black Hole In The House."** According to the Associated Press, "Immigration legislation is hardly the only area where inaction is the likeliest outcome. A Senate-passed bill has fallen into the congressional equivalent of a black hole in the House, where conservative critics cite a changing series of reasons for not wanting to take action. Initially, they said they didn't want to vote on a bill because they oppose amnesty for immigrants living in the country illegally. Then they observed it would be a political mistake to shift focus away from their own opposition to the health care law, which unites them, and turn it onto an issue that divides them. Most recently, Boehner, who has said repeatedly he wants to pass an immigration bill, has joined others in citing a lack of trust with Obama as a reason for inaction." [Associated Press, [2/9/14](#)]

**May 2014: House GOP Leaders "Blocked" Immigration Measures From Getting A Vote On A Defense Policy Bill, "Dealing Another Blow To The Prospects Of Legislation To Rewrite The Immigration System This Year."** According to Politico, "House GOP leaders formally blocked a pair of immigration measures from getting a vote on a critical defense policy bill early Wednesday, dealing another blow to the prospects of legislation to rewrite the immigration system this year. The Republican-led House Rules Committee, which hews closely to the wishes of leadership, declined to include legislation written by Rep. Jeff Denham (R-Calif.) — giving a path to green cards for immigrants who came here as children if they serve in the military — among the amendments that will get a vote on the National Defense Authorization Act." [Politico.com, [5/21/14](#)]

**NBC News: "No Reasonable Person Can Say" That Immigration Reform's Death In 2013 And 2014 "Is Anyone's Fault But House Republicans."** According to NBC News, "But now, no reasonable person can say that immigration's death -- in 2013 and 2014 -- is anyone's fault but House Republicans. Still, we also understand why they killed it: They saw no short-term benefit. Yes, the long-term politics (for 2016 and 2020) cry out for Republicans to remove immigration as an issue. But doing so would be so painful in the process (just see Eric Cantor's primary defeat). All of that said, the longer Republicans wait on passing immigration reform, the longer the wounds with Latino voters will take to heal." [NBC News, [7/1/14](#)]

## **EQUAL PAY**

### **Senate Republicans Blocked Paycheck Fairness Act Three Times**

**2010: Democrats Unable To Overcome Republican Filibuster Of Wage Discrimination Bill.** According to the Huffington Post, "Senate Democrats were unable to overcome a Republican filibuster of the Paycheck Fairness Act on Tuesday, with the chamber falling two votes short of the 60 needed to end debate and proceed to a vote on the measure that would help combat wage discrimination on the basis of gender." [Huffington Post, [11/17/10](#)]

**2012: Paycheck Fairness Act Failed Again After "Senate Republicans Voted En Masse Against The Measure."** According to the Washington Post, "A bill meant to help close the wage gap between men and women failed to advance in the Senate on Tuesday — as expected. The Paycheck Fairness Act earned 52 votes in favor of proceeding to final consideration, short of the 60 votes necessary. Senate Republicans voted en masse against the measure, believing that it could adversely affect businesses if employees attempt to file pay-related lawsuits." [Washington Post, [6/5/12](#)]

**Senate Republicans Have Blocked Legislation That Would Hold Employers More Accountable For Wage**

**Discrimination Against Women Three Times.** According to the Huffington Post, “Senate Republicans blocked a vote on Wednesday to open debate on the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would hold employers more accountable for wage discrimination against women. The Senate voted 53 to 44 to move forward on the bill, falling short of the 60 votes needed to overcome a Republican filibuster. [...] Senate Republicans have blocked the Paycheck Fairness Act twice before, claiming that it will only result in more lawsuits against employers.” [Huffington Post, [4/9/14](#)]

**Paycheck Fairness Act “Failed To Garner Any Republican Support.”** According to the National Journal, “The Paycheck Fairness Act, which failed to garner any Republican support, would have done a couple of things. For one, it would have made it illegal to retaliate against employees who share or ask for wage data in the course of a complaint or investigation—the thinking being that part of eliminating gender pay discrimination is increasing transparency. The act would have also make employers liable to civil action on gender pay discrimination matters, and would have directed the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to collect gender and racial wage data from employers.” [National Journal, [4/9/14](#)]

## **President Obama Had To Respond With Executive Action**

**2014: President Obama Signs Two Executive Actions On Equal Pay.** According to Politico, “At the White House on Tuesday, President Barack Obama will sign two executive actions on equal pay, as Senate Democrats move for a show vote this week on the Paycheck Fairness Act — launching Democrats’ first large-scale coordinated message effort ahead of this year’s midterms.” [Politico, [4/6/14](#)]

**One Executive Order Prohibited Federal Contractors From Retaliating Against Workers Who Discuss Their Salaries.** According to Politico, “One of the new executive orders on Tuesday, Equal Pay Day, will prohibit federal contractors from retaliating against workers who discuss their salaries — a move one White House official called ‘a critical tool to encourage pay transparency.’” [Politico, [4/6/14](#)]

**Second Executive Order Required Federal Contractors To Report Salary Summary Data To The Government.** According to Politico, “Obama will also sign a presidential memorandum instructing Labor Secretary Tom Perez to create new regulations requiring federal contractors to report salary summary data to the government, including sex and race breakdowns. The hope, according to the White House, is that this will encourage other employers to submit data voluntarily, enabling more targeted government enforcement.” [Politico, [4/6/14](#)]

**Using Executive Orders Was “Best Path” President Obama Had “To Get Something Done” On Equal Pay.** According to CBS News, “Federal contractors employ about a quarter of the nation's workforce, meaning the people affected by Mr. Obama's executive orders represent a smaller pool. But with few options for congressional action, it's the best path he has to get something done as well as to put forth a potentially winning message for Democrats in this year's midterm elections.” [CBS News, [4/8/14](#)]

## **WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION**

### **GOP Blocked The Passage of Workplace Discrimination Bill**

**Employment Non-Discrimination Act Would Protect Workers Against Sexual Orientation Or Gender Identity Discrimination.** According to Govtrack.us, S. 815, The Employment Non-Discrimination Act would prohibit “covered entities (employers, employment agencies, labor organizations, or joint labor-management committees) from engaging in employment discrimination on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.” [S.815, Govtrack.us, [4/25/13](#)]

**Less Than 50 Percent Of States Have Laws Prohibiting Workplace Discrimination Based On Sexual Orientation, And About 34 Percent Of States Also Have Laws That Bar Discrimination Based On Gender Identity.** According to the Washington Post’s Post Politics blog, “Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have laws prohibiting workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation, while 17 states and the District also bar discrimination based on gender identity.” [Post Politics blog via WashingtonPost.com, [7/8/14](#)]

**TPM: House Speaker Boehner’s Opposition Suggests “ENDA Is Going Nowhere.”** According to Talking Points Memo, “Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) revealed Monday that he opposes the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, quashing hopes for the bill as it secures the votes to pass the Senate. “The Speaker believes this legislation will increase



frivolous litigation and cost American jobs, especially small business jobs,' Boehner's spokesman Michael Steel told TPM in an email. The statement came just hours before the LGBT rights legislation was expected to clear a key test vote in the Senate. Democrats believe they have 60 votes to break a filibuster and put the bill on a glide-path to passage in the upper chamber. But Boehner's opposition suggests ENDA is going nowhere in the Republican-led House.” [TalkingPointsMemo.com, [11/4/13](#)]

**Employment Non-Discrimination Act “Faces Major Hurdles To Even Start Moving Through The GOP-Led House.”** According to CNN.com, “While the Senate passed legislation barring workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity with a significant bipartisan vote on Thursday, the bill faces major hurdles to even start moving through the GOP-led House, and there's almost no chance it will come up for a vote this year. House Speaker John Boehner opposes the Employment Non Discrimination Act, known as ENDA, and believes protections for employees already exist under other laws.” [CNN.com, [11/7/13](#)]

**Senate Passed A Version Of The Employment Non Discrimination Act In 2013, But House Republicans Indicated They Will Not Bring The Bill To The Floor.** According to Time.com, “The Senate passed a version of ENDA last year, but House Republicans have indicated they will not bring the bill to the floor in that chamber.” [Time.com, [6/16/14](#)]

### **President Obama Had To Respond With Executive Action**

**2014: President Obama Signed An Executive Order “Protecting Workers At Federal Contractors And In The Federal Government From Discrimination On The Basis Of Sexual Orientation And Gender Identity.”** According to Politico, “President Barack Obama on Monday signed an executive order aimed at protecting workers at federal contractors and in the federal government from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. ‘I firmly believe that it’s time to address this injustice for every American,’ Obama told a group of LGBT activists gathered in the East Room of the White House. Later, he added, ‘we’re on the right side of history.’” [Politico, [7/21/14](#)]

- **Executive Order Amends A 1965 Executive Order That Prohibits Federal Contractors From Discriminating Based On Race, Religion, Gender Or National Identity.** According to CBS News, “The executive order signed Monday amends a 1965 executive order signed by President Lyndon Johnson that prohibits federal contractors from discriminating based on race, religion, gender or national identity, adding sexual orientation and gender to the list of protections.” [CBSNews.com, [7/21/14](#)]
- **Executive Order Amends 1969 Executive Order That Prohibits Discrimination Against Federal Workers Based On Race, Religion, Gender, Nationality, Age Or Disability.** According to CBS News, “Another 1969 order from President Richard Nixon prohibited discrimination against federal workers based on race, religion, gender, nationality, age or disability. President Clinton added sexual orientation during his two terms in office, and Mr. Obama adds gender identity to the list. That change will take effect immediately.” [CBSNews.com, [7/21/14](#)]

## **STUDENT LOAN DEBT**

### **GOP Blocked Congress From Tackling Student Loan Debt**

**Student Loan Debt “Topping \$1.2 Trillion.”** According to Bloomberg Businessweek, “With student debt topping \$1.2 trillion, there’s increasing focus on what happens to people after they take on loans, particularly borrowers who are struggling to make their payments.” [Businessweek.com, [12/13/13](#)]

**2014: Senate Republicans Block Consideration Of Student Loan Bill That Would Allow People To Refinance Their Student Loan Debt.** According to The Hill, “Senate Republicans blocked consideration of a bill that would allow people to refinance their student loan debt in a 56-38 vote on Wednesday.” [Hill, [6/11/14](#)]

- **Congressional Budget Office Estimated Student Loan Bill “Would Fetch \$22 Billion For The Federal Government Over The Next Decade” By Imposing Higher Taxes On The Rich.** According to The Hill, “A bill offered by Senate Democrats that would let borrowers refinance their student loans at a lower rate and cover the costs by enacting higher taxes on the rich, would fetch \$22 billion for the federal government over the next decade.” [Hill, [6/11/14](#)]



## **President Obama Had To Respond With Executive Action**

**President Obama Signed Executive Order To Reduce College Debt Burden.** According to the New York Times, “President Obama signed an executive order on Monday intended to lessen the college loan burden on nearly five million younger Americans by capping repayments at 10 percent of the borrowers’ monthly income. Joined by indebted graduates in the East Room of the White House, Mr. Obama said the spiraling cost of higher education had put ‘too big a debt load on too many people.’” [New York Times, [6/9/14](#)]

- **Executive Order “Lets Millions Of College Graduates Cap Their Student Loan Payments At 10% Of Their Income.”** According to the Los Angeles Times, “President Obama on Monday signed an executive order that lets millions of college graduates cap their student loan payments at 10% of their income, a move he says will help ‘open the doors of opportunity for all.’” [Los Angeles Times, [6/9/14](#)]

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **GOP Blocked Multiple Bills Addressing Pollution**

**2008: Senate Republican Block Climate Bill Requiring “Major Reductions In Greenhouse Gases.”** According to the Associated Press, “Senate Republicans on Friday blocked a global warming bill that would have required major reductions in greenhouse gases, after a bitter debate over its economic costs and whether it would substantially raise gasoline and other energy prices. Democratic leaders fell a dozen votes short of getting the 60 needed to end a Republican filibuster on the measure and bring the bill up for a vote. The 48-36 vote failed to reach even a majority, a disappointment to the bill's supporters.” [Associated Press, [6/6/08](#)]

**2011: House Republicans Introduce Legislation To “Gut” Climate Aid Programs And “Slash Funding For Energy And Climate Research.”** According to the New York Times, “House Republicans introduced spending legislation Friday that would strip U.S. EPA of its ability to regulate carbon dioxide emissions, gut the State Department's climate aid programs and slash funding for energy and climate research across the federal government. The continuing resolution (CR), which would fund government operations through Sept. 30, seeks to trim \$100 billion from the fiscal 2011 budget President Obama proposed last year. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) initially floated \$32 billion in cuts but backtracked last week under pressure from lawmakers aligned with the tea party.” [New York Times, [2/14/11](#)]

**Republicans In The 112<sup>th</sup> Congress “Voted 53 Times To Block Climate Action.”** According to the Guardian, “Republicans in the last Congress voted 53 times to block climate action, and held up McCarthy's nomination for months. In light of that, the EPA administrator was told in Wednesday's hearing that Obama's climate plan exhibited disregard for Congress.” [Guardian, [9/18/13](#)]

**“More Than 100” GOP House Members Signed A Koch-Backed Pledge Promising To Not Authorize Any Federal Money To Fight Climate Change “Without An Equal Amount Of Tax Cuts.”** According to the Investigative Reporting Workshop, “The House of Representatives voted to slash the EPA budget by 27 percent, one of the biggest cuts since President Richard Nixon and the Congress created the agency in 1970. The Senate subsequently modified the severity of these cuts, and the budget was ultimately cut by nearly 16 percent. What is less known is that more than 100 House members — all Republicans, many tea party members — signed a little-known ‘pledge’ (similar to the Grover Norquist no tax increase pledge) backed by the Koch brothers promising to not spend any federal money to fight climate change without an equal amount of tax cuts.” [Investigative Reporting Workshop, [7/1/13](#)]

**“No Climate Tax” Has Been “A Component Of A Remarkably Successful Campaign To Prevent Lawmakers From Addressing Climate Change.”** According to The New Yorker, “Starting in 2008, a year after the Supreme Court ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency could regulate greenhouse gases as a form of pollution, accelerating possible Congressional action on climate change, the Koch-funded nonprofit group, Americans for Prosperity, devised the ‘No Climate Tax’ pledge. It has been, according to the study, a component of a remarkably successful campaign to prevent lawmakers from addressing climate change.” [New Yorker, [6/30/13](#)]

**Top Environmental Regulators Told Congress “What Many Republican Lawmakers Won't: Action Is Needed On Global Warming.”** According to the Associated Press, “Top environmental regulators for four Republican presidents told

Congress on Wednesday what many Republican lawmakers won't: Action is needed on global warming." [Associated Press, [6/18/14](#)]

**AP: "Some Republicans Dispute The Science Of Climate Change And Have Worked To Unravel Obama's Steps To Address It."** According to the Associated Press, "Some Republicans dispute the science of climate change and have worked to unravel Obama's steps to address it." [Associated Press, [6/18/14](#)]

**All Republican Members Of The House Energy And Commerce Committee Rejected A Democrat's Amendment To An Anti-EPA Bill That Would Have Declared That "Greenhouse Gas Emissions Are Causing Climate Change."** According to the Huffington Post, "In a January vote on an anti-EPA bill, all 24 Republican members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee rejected a Democrat's proposed amendment that would have declared that Congress accepts greenhouse gas emissions are causing climate change." [Huffington Post, [4/10/14](#)]

**House Republicans' Proposed Budget Would Cut Funding For Federal Climate Change Programs.** According to Bloomberg, "A fiscal year 2015 budget plan developed by House Republicans aims to reduce funding for federal climate change programs. The House fiscal 2015 budget resolution, released April 1, proposes to cut overall spending on the federal government's climate change-related activities, mostly through reduced spending on overseas climate change activities." [Bloomberg.com, [4/2/14](#)]

**NY Times: "There Is No Chance That A Major Climate Change Bill Will Be Passed By The Deadlocked Congress."** According to the New York Times, "There is no chance that a major climate change bill will be passed by the deadlocked Congress. But Mr. Obama continues to announce small-scale actions. On Friday, they will include new energy conservation standards for devices like conveyor belts and escalators and one for walk-in coolers and a program to replace outdoor public lighting with energy-efficient alternatives in five cities. He will also set a goal to save \$2 billion in three years by increasing energy efficiency in federal buildings, and he will promote an Energy Department program to provide solar industry training at community colleges." [New York Times, [5/8/14](#)]

**John Boehner: "The Idea That Carbon Dioxide Is A Carcinogen That Is Harmful To Our Environment Is Almost Comical."** According to a transcript of an interview with House Speaker John Boehner by George Stephanopoulos on ABC's *This Week*, "STEPHANOPOULOS: What is the Republican plan to deal with carbon emissions, which every major scientific organization has said is contributing to climate change? BOEHNER: George, the idea that carbon dioxide is a carcinogen that is harmful to our environment is almost comical. Every time we exhale, we exhale carbon dioxide. Every cow in the world, you know, when they do what they do, you've got more carbon dioxide." [ABC, This Week, [4/19/09](#)]

**Mitch McConnell On Climate Change: "For Everybody Who Thinks It's Warming, I Can Find Somebody Who Thinks It Isn't."** According to Cincinnati Enquirer, "While lamenting how the Environmental Protection Agency has threatened the coal industry, [Senate Minority Leader Mitch] McConnell on Friday said he doesn't believe in man-made climate change. He said in the 1970s, people feared an ice age was imminent. 'For everybody who thinks it's warming, I can find somebody who thinks it isn't,' McConnell said." [Cincinnati Enquirer, [3/7/14](#)]

**Sen. James Inhofe: "The Idea That Manmade Gases, CO2, Are Causing Catastrophic Global Warming Is The Greatest Hoax Ever Perpetrated On The American People."** According to a NewsBusters interview with Sen. James Inhofe, "You might remember, it was 2003 when I made the statement that the idea that manmade gases, CO2, are causing catastrophic global warming is the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people. I was hated at that time, but now people realize I was right. That, by the way, is the title of my book that's going to come out in January." [Newsbusters.org, [11/30/11](#)]

**Rep. Joe Barton: CO2 Is "Not Hazardous To Health ... It's In Your Coca-Cola."** According to a transcript of an interview with Rep. Joe Barton on C-Span's Washington Journal, "I would also point out that CO2 is not a pollutant in any normal definition of the term. It's not hazardous to health, it's naturally occurring. I'm creating it as I talk to you. It's in your Coca-Cola, your Dr. Pepper and your Perrier water. It's necessary for human life. It's odorless, colorless, tasteless, doesn't cause cancer, doesn't cause asthma. There's nobody that's ever been admitted to a hospital because of CO2 poisoning." [C-Span Barton Interview via YouTube, [5/19/09](#)]

- **Rep. Joe Barton Is A Member Of The Full House Energy And Commerce Committee And Serves As Chairman Emeritus.** According to the Energy & Commerce Committee website, Rep. Joe Barton is a member of

the full House Energy & Commerce Committee and serves as Chairman Emeritus. [[EnergyCommerce.House.gov](http://EnergyCommerce.House.gov), Viewed [8/4/14](#)]

## **President Obama Had To Respond With Executive Action**

**2013: President Obama Announces A “Three-Pronged” Climate Change Plan “To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Pollution And Prepare The Nation For A Future Of Rising Temperatures.”** According to the New York Times, “President Obama, declaring that ‘Americans across the country are already paying the price of inaction,’ announced sweeping measures on Tuesday to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and prepare the nation for a future of rising temperatures. Embracing wholeheartedly an issue that could define his legacy but is sure to ignite new political battles with Republicans, Mr. Obama said he would use his executive powers to require reductions in the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by the nation’s power plants. The carbon cuts at power plants are the centerpiece of a three-pronged climate-change plan that will also involve new federal funds to advance renewable energy technology, as well as spending to fortify cities and states against the ravages of storms and droughts aggravated by a changing climate.” [New York Times, [6/25/13](#)]

**Obama Administration Announced A New EPA Regulation To Cut Carbon Pollution, “One Of The Strongest Actions Ever Taken By The United States Government To Fight Climate Change.”** According to the New York Times, “The Obama administration on Monday will announce one of the strongest actions ever taken by the United States government to fight climate change, a proposed Environmental Protection Agency regulation to cut carbon pollution from the nation’s power plants 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030, according to people briefed on the plan who spoke anonymously because they had been asked not to reveal details.” [New York Times, [6/1/14](#)]

**Newsweek: “When A Cap-And-Trade Bill Failed In The Senate In 2010, It Became Clear That Congress Was Not Going To Act.”** According to Newsweek, “Executive action wasn’t Obama’s first choice for addressing climate change. But when a cap-and-trade bill failed in the Senate in 2010, it became clear that Congress was not going to act. With no hope for legislation, the only tool left in the administration’s toolbox was the 1970 Clean Air Act, which gives the president and the EPA the authority to regulate carbon emissions if they are deemed a danger to the public -- in 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that the act applies to greenhouse gases. But there was a problem: the Clean Air Act was assumed to be ineffective and expensive.” [Newsweek, [5/30/14](#)]

## **How Has The GOP Used Their Time and Resources?**

### **HOUSE SPEAKER BOEHNER’S LAWSUIT AGAINST THE PRESIDENT**

**House Votes To Sue President On Party-Line Vote.** According to the New York Times, “The House of Representatives voted on Wednesday to sue President Obama for overstepping the powers of the presidency — a move that has angered conservatives who call it insufficient, emboldened Democrats who say Republicans are being vengeful, and further eroded much of what is left of bipartisanship on Capitol Hill. In a 225-to-201 party-line vote, Republicans authorized the House to move forward with a lawsuit against Mr. Obama for his application of the Affordable Care Act, which they argue has been selective and intended to delay the law’s most undesirable aspects.” [New York Times, [7/30/14](#)]

- **GOP Congressman Compares President To King George, House Republicans To American Colonies: “Our Forefathers Paid Dearly For That Freedom.”** According to the New York Times, “This was a dominant theme in Republican speeches before the vote on Wednesday. Representative Tom Rice of South Carolina drew comparisons to the tyranny of King George III (Mr. Obama) and the revolt by the American colonies (House Republicans). ‘At the end of the bloody revolution, the last thing that they wanted was another king; they wanted freedom,’ he said, dismissing concerns about the lawsuit’s costs as a small price to pay for a worthy cause. ‘My friends across the aisle worry about the price of a lawsuit to protect our freedom,’ Mr. Rice said. ‘Our forefathers paid dearly for that freedom.’ He added, ‘We cannot stand by and watch the president shred our Constitution.’” [New York Times, [7/30/14](#)]

**Constitutional Accountability Center Lawyer On Boehner Lawsuit: It Is “Apparent To All That Faithful Execution Of The Affordable Care Act Is The Last Thing In The World That The Proponents Of The Suit Hope For.”**

According to the LA Times, “Simon Lazarus, a lawyer for the Constitutional Accountability Center, told a House committee

recently that there was ‘no material difference between these decisions by the Clinton and Bush administrations to postpone regulations and the Obama administration's approach to implementing’ the Affordable Care Act. [...] Lazarus predicts judges ‘will see this as a political maneuver,’ because it will be ‘apparent to all that faithful execution of the Affordable Care Act is the last thing in the world that the proponents of the suit hope for.’” [LA Times, [7/19/14](#)]

**USA Today Editorial On Boehner Lawsuit: “GOP Is Seeking An Outcome It Hasn't Been Able To Achieve At The Polls Or Through The Legislative Process.”** According to an editorial by USA Today, “A fair-minded look at the suit's merits suggests it's really more of a political grudge match, one in which the GOP is seeking an outcome it hasn't been able to achieve at the polls or through the legislative process.” [Editorial - USA Today, [7/27/14](#)]

**Chicago Tribune Editorial: “That Is Not How American Democracy Is Supposed To Work.”** According to an editorial by the Chicago Tribune, “Judges generally regard disputes between the executive and legislative branches as something for them to work out without assistance from the bench. That's an entirely sensible approach. If the courts were to step in every time the White House thinks Congress is out of line, or vice versa, the elected officials would spend all their time suing instead of negotiating. That is not how American democracy is supposed to work.” [Chicago Tribune, [7/13/14](#)]

**Newsweek: The Legal Community “Largely Believes” Speaker Boehner’s Case Against President Obama “Will Be Laughed Out Of Court.”** According to Newsweek, “With the November midterm elections around the corner, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, has opted to sue President Barack Obama. [...] The legal community largely believes the case will be laughed out of court.” [Newsweek, [7/15/14](#)]

**Three Of The Supreme Court's Leading Conservatives “Warned House Republicans Against Running To Court” When They Tried To Defend The Defense Of Marriage Act In 2013.** According to the Los Angeles Times, “Last year, three of the Supreme Court's leading conservatives warned House Republicans against running to court. Justice Antonin Scalia, joined by Roberts and Justice Clarence Thomas, supported the Defense of Marriage Act, which banned federal recognition of same-sex marriages. Nonetheless, they said House Republicans did not have standing in their attempt to defend the law.” [Los Angeles Times, [7/19/14](#)]

- **Newsweek: “Does Boehner Want To Go Down The Road That [Justice] Scalia Fears, Of The Courts Stepping In To Decide Political Disputes?”** According to Newsweek, “[Supreme Court Justice Antonin] Scalia is no fan of Obama, but predicts he ‘would be one of the first to dismiss this lawsuit.’ Moreover, she said, she wouldn’t be surprised to see the House’s opponents citing Scalia to get the Boehner suit dismissed. Does Boehner want to go down the road that Scalia fears, of the courts stepping in to decide political disputes?” [Newsweek, [7/15/14](#)]

**Justice Scalia On *United States v. Windsor*: “Congress Must Care Enough To Act Against The President Itself, Not Merely Enough To Instruct Its Lawyers To Ask Us To Do So.”** According to Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia’s dissent in *United States v. Windsor*, “If majorities in both Houses of Congress care enough about the matter, they have available innumerable ways to compel executive action without a lawsuit—from refusing to confirm Presidential appointees to the elimination of funding. [...] But the condition is crucial; Congress must care enough to act against the President itself, not merely enough to instruct its lawyers to ask us to do so.” [*United States v. Windsor*, [6/26/13](#)]

## **GOP CALLS FOR IMPEACHMENT**

**“At Least 13 Of The 22 Republicans” On The Panel Assembled By The House Committee On The Judiciary “Have Threatened Or Hinted At Impeachment Of Obama, His Appointees Or His Allies In Congress.”** According to Dana Milbank for the Washington Post, “History will record that on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary met to consider the impeachment of Barack Hussein Obama. They didn’t use that word, of course. Republican leaders frown on such labeling because it makes the House majority look, well, crazy. [...] The Republicans in the House know there is no chance of throwing this president from office. Yet at least 13 of the 22 Republicans on the panel have threatened or hinted at impeachment of Obama, his appointees or his allies in Congress. They’ve proposed this as the remedy to just about every dispute or political disagreement, from Syria to Obamacare.” [Opinion – Dana Milbank Washington Post, [12/3/13](#)]

**Rep. Steve King: If The President Uses Executive Actions For Immigration Reform, “We’ve All Taken An Oath To Uphold The Constitution” And “Congress Defines High Crimes And Misdemeanors.”** According to an interview with Rep. Steve Stockman on CNN posted by Think Progress, “I have said that if the president continues to violate the



constitution, if he should with the stroke of his pen- as he's threatening to do, floating his trial balloons last week – if he decides that he's going to grant amnesty in a lawless way, we've all taken an oath to uphold the constitution and I wouldn't want some member of congress who would say 'whatever the president does no matter how bad it is we're not going to use the constitutional obligation...Congress defines high crimes and misdemeanors, Congress defines that.' [YouTube, [7/30/14](#)]

**Rep. Michele Bachmann: President Obama Has “Committed Impeachable Offenses.”** According to The Hill, “Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.) said Tuesday that President Obama has ‘committed impeachable offenses’ and that the House could hold a hearing to impeach. ‘We can have an impeachment hearing in the House, and in my mind the president has committed impeachable offenses,’ Bachmann told conservative talk show host Rusty Humphries in an interview first detailed by Right Wing Watch.” [The Hill, [10/9/13](#)]

**Rep. Ted Yoho: The President’s Move On Immigration Is “One Of Many” Impeachable Offences.** According to Slate, “Most of the questions came from the Washington Post’s Robert Costa, who asked what Yoho thought of the Democrats now raising funds on the specter of impeachment. Costa then found himself drawn into an accidental Socratic dialogue. ‘I’m trying to get a sense of what people think is an impeachable offense—perhaps his move on immigration,’ said Costa. ‘I think that’s one of many. Again, go back to why you impeach a president.’ ‘Can you inform me a little more?’ asked Costa. ‘You asked me,’ said Yoho. ‘And I’m asking you a question.’ The congressman and the reporter went several more rounds until Costa chose not to answer the hypothetical question about why a president should be impeached.” [Slate, [7/29/14](#)]

**Republican Rep. Bill Flores: “I Think [The President] Abused His Power ... If The House Had An Impeachment Vote It Would Probably Impeach The President.”** According to a video posted by BuzzFeed of Rep. Bill Flores at a town hall forum, “I look at the president, I think he’s violated the Constitution [...] I think he’s violated the law. I think he’s abused his power but at the end of the day you have to say if the House decides to impeach him, if the House had an impeachment vote it would probably impeach the president.” [BuzzFeed, [9/6/13](#)]

**Rep. Randy Weber: “The President Deserves To Be Impeached.”** According to The Hill, “‘The president deserves to be impeached, plain and simple,’ Rep. Randy Weber (R-Texas) said at an event hosted by the Heritage Foundation.” [Hill, [7/15/14](#)]

**Rep. Steve Stockman Distributed To “All Members Of Congress” Copies Of “Impeachable Offenses: The Case For Removing Barack Obama From Office.”** According to a press release from the office of Rep. Steve Stockman, “Congressman Steve Stockman distributed to all members of Congress this month copies of ‘Impeachable Offenses: The Case For Removing Barack Obama From Office.’ ‘I hope this book helps convince my colleagues to hold Barack Obama legally responsible for his disregard for the law. When told of his offense, Obama sought to cover them up rather than accept responsibility and correct the mistakes,’ said Stockman.” [Steve Stockman Press Release, [10/31/13](#)]

**Rep. Kerry Bentivolio On Impeaching President Obama: “It Would Be A Dream Come True.”** According to ABC News, “Rep. Kerry Bentivolio, R-Mich., Monday said it would be a ‘dream come true’ to write a bill to impeach President Obama after constituents asked what he is doing to stop the president from ‘doing everything that he's doing against [the] Constitution.’ ‘If I could write that bill and submit it, it would be a dream come true,’ Bentivolio said at the Birmingham Bloomfield Republican Club Meeting. ‘I feel your pain. I stood twelve feet away from [the president] and listened to him. I couldn't stand being there, but because he is president I have to respect the office. That's my job, as a congressman. I respect the office.’” [ABCNews.go.com, [8/21/13](#)]

## **GOP HAS WASTED TIME AND MONEY ON MULTIPLE BENGHAZI INVESTIGATIONS THAT HAVE ALREADY FOUND NO WRONGDOING**

**Benghazi Investigations Have “Already Spanned 13 Hearings, 25,000 Pages Of Documents And 50 Briefings.”** According to Politico, “Speaker John Boehner and House Republicans have decided to create a select committee to expand their investigation into the Benghazi attacks. Beyond that, nothing is settled. In fact, Republicans may be going on something of a mission improbable to yield new information and turn up new clues in a wide-ranging probe that has already spanned 13 hearings, 25,000 pages of documents and 50 briefings.” [Politico, [5/4/14](#)]

- **GOP-Led Intelligence Committee Finds Can’t Find White House Misconduct On Benghazi.** According to the San Francisco Chronicle, “The House Intelligence Committee, led by Republicans, has concluded that there was



no deliberate wrongdoing by the Obama administration in the 2012 attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans, said Rep. Mike Thompson of St. Helena, the second-ranking Democrat on the committee. The panel voted Thursday to declassify the report, the result of two years of investigation by the committee. U.S. intelligence agencies will have to approve making the report public. [...] Thompson said the report ‘confirms that no one was deliberately misled, no military assets were withheld and no stand-down order (to U.S. forces) was given.’” [San Francisco Chronicle, [8/1/14](#)]

**House Republicans Want A \$3.3 Million Budget For The House Select Committee Investigating Benghazi Attacks, A “Bigger Budget Than The House Veteran Affairs And Ethics Committees Were Given This Year.”** According to USA Today, “House Republicans are planning to spend as much as \$3.3 million for this year's operations of the special committee they began in May to investigate the September 2012 Benghazi attacks, a bigger budget than the House veterans affairs and ethics committees were given this year.” [USA Today, [7/7/14](#)]

**Twelve-Member Benghazi Select Committee’s Full-Year Equivalent Budget Would Be More Than \$5 Million.** According to USA Today, “According to a committee document provided by Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi's office, House Republicans want a \$3.3 million budget for this year's operations of the 12-member select committee on the Benghazi attacks. [...] Since the Benghazi committee was created in May, its full-year equivalent budget would be more than \$5 million. This is more than the House Intelligence Committee, which has a \$4.4 million budget this year and spent \$4.1 million last year.” [USA Today, [7/7/14](#)]

**Politico: Republicans And Conservative Groups Have Used Benghazi “As A Cash Grab.”** According to Politico, “A number of Republican candidates and conservative groups have openly used the Sept. 11, 2012, attacks in Benghazi, Libya, as a cash grab.” [Politico.com, [5/7/14](#)]

- **Benghazi A “Key Part Of The GOP Fundraising And Mobilization Strategy.”** According to Politico, “The 2012 consulate attack and accusations of a White House cover-up are catnip for grassroots donors and activists. And Benghazi — and the select committee assigned to investigate it — is a key part of the GOP fundraising and mobilization strategy.” [Politico.com, [5/7/14](#)]
- **National Republican Congressional Committee Is “Aiming To Raise Money Off Gowdy’s New Position” As Head Of The Benghazi Select Committee.** According to Politico, “This week, the National Republican Congressional Committee rolled out a new fundraising campaign called ‘Benghazi Watchdogs’ — an effort by the aiming to raise money off Gowdy’s new position.” [Politico.com, [5/7/14](#)]

**Pentagon’s “Work To Comply With The Six Congressional Investigations” Into The Benghazi Attacks “Cost The Military Millions Of Dollars And Thousands Of Man Hours.”** According to The Hill, “The Pentagon said Tuesday that its work to comply with the six congressional investigations into the September 2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya, has cost the military millions of dollars and thousands of man hours. The Pentagon said in a letter to Rep. Adam Smith (Wash.), the top Democrat on the House Armed services Committee, that Defense Department officials have participated in 50 congressional hearings, briefings and interviews about the attack.” [The Hill, [3/25/14](#)]

**With Government On Brink Of Shutdown, House GOP Holding Six-Hour Hearing On Benghazi.** According to NPR, “It was a day when most in Congress were obsessed with an increasingly likely government shutdown that would be of lawmakers' own making. But not the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The GOP-controlled panel held a marathon six-hour hearing on what South Carolina Republican Trey Gowdy called the most important issue of all to the folks back home: the attack in Benghazi, Libya, that left four Americans dead just over a year ago.” [NPR, [9/19/13](#)]

- **State Department Warned That A Government Shutdown “Would Hamper The Embassy Security Enhancements Called For” After The Benghazi Attacks.** According to The Hill, “The State Department warned lawmakers Thursday that their failure to fund the government would hamper the embassy security enhancements called for after the Benghazi, Libya, attack. House Republicans have led the charge in investigating the terrorist attack that killed Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans last year, accusing the State Department of a cover-up.” [The Hill, [10/3/13](#)]

**Sen. Lindsey Graham Threatened To Block All Appointment Until White House Makes Benghazi Survivors Available.** According to USA Today, “Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., says he'll block a vote on President Obama's nominees

until the White House provides more information about the survivors of last year's deadly attack on the U.S. consulate in Libya." [USA Today, [10/28/13](#)]



Lindsey Graham  
@GrahamBlog



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Where are the #Benghazi survivors? I'm going to block every appointment in the US Senate until they are made available to Congress.

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**Republican Aide: John Boehner Agreed To The Benghazi Select Committee To “Mollify” Tea Partiers “Who Were Upset With Him About A Range Of Issues, Including The Federal Budget And Immigration Reform.”** According to the Daily Beast, “House Speaker John Boehner himself resisted calls to form the committee for nearly a year and a half. [...] But it was not until Judicial Watch in April uncovered a set of White House emails on Benghazi—emails that were not shared with Congress—that Boehner agreed to Wolf’s idea. Boehner’s calculation was, in part, political, according to one House Republican aide. The Speaker was looking to mollify the Tea Party faction of his caucus who were upset with him about a range of issues, including the federal budget and immigration reform.” [Daily Beast, [5/14/14](#)]

## **GOP HAS VOTED ENDLESSLY TO REPEAL OBAMAMCARE WITHOUT OFFERING COMPREHENSIVE ALTERNATIVES**

**House Passed 50th Bill To Repeal Or Alter Obamacare In March 2014.** According to the CNN.com’s Political Ticker blog, “The House on Wednesday passed another bill aimed at derailing Obamacare - the 50th time the GOP-led chamber has tried to repeal or alter President Barack Obama’s signature health law in the past three years.” [Political Ticker Blog via CNN.com, [3/5/14](#)]

**Republicans Vowed To “Repeal And Replace” Obamacare Yet “There Have Only Been” Votes To Repeal Or Tweak Obamacare.** According to the Political Ticker blog on CNN.com, “Immediately after the President signed the bill, Republicans made ‘repeal and replace’ their mantra in that election. But since they gained the majority, there have only been votes – now tallying 50 - to roll back the law entirely or tweak some of its provisions.” [Political Ticker Blog via CNN.com, [3/5/14](#)]

**Politico: “Six Months Into The Campaign Year, They’re Still Trying To Craft An Alternative.”** According to Politico, “House Republicans despise Obamacare, so voting to replace it seems like an election year no-brainer. But six months into the campaign year, they’re still trying to craft an alternative.” [Politico.com, [7/8/14](#)]

**Some Republicans “Only Want To Repeal Obamacare, And Not Replace It.”** According to The Hill, “There are some Republicans who only want to repeal ObamaCare, and not replace it. Republican leaders have been making the case that approach isn’t feasible because ObamaCare benefits are now in effect. Stripping people of their new healthcare coverage would likely produce a strong backlash from voters.” [Hill, [5/26/14](#)]

**Republicans “Divided” Over What Policies A GOP Healthcare Bill Should Include.** According to Politico, “Republicans are divided over whether they should commit to a specific plan before November — and precisely what policies a GOP health bill should include.” [Politico.com, [7/8/14](#)]

**House Group Organized To Discuss Obamacare Replacement “Hasn’t Met In Months.”** According to Politico, “A group of about 25 House members, organized by GOP Conference Chairwoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Republican Whip Kevin McCarthy last summer to discuss Obamacare replacement, hasn’t met in months.” [Politico.com, [7/8/14](#)]

**Politico: “No One’s Predicting When A Floor Vote Might Happen” On A GOP Obamacare Replacement Bill.** According to Politico, “But while Scalise has been touting the bill — most recently on a trip to Tennessee last week — he hasn’t promised the rank and file it will get a vote. That decision would ultimately be up to House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and incoming Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif). In fact, no one’s predicting when a floor vote might happen.” [Politico.com, [7/8/14](#)]

**GOP Congressman: “We’re Running Out Of Time” On Health Passing Health Reform Legislation.** According to Politico, “Now Congress has barely a month to work before the August recess. For reasons of policy as well as politics, members admit they’re unlikely to hold any health reform votes before then. ‘We’re running out of time,’ Rep. Charles Boustany (R-La.) said.” [Politico.com, [7/8/14](#)]