

Why do these votes matter?

1. Semiconductor Incentives

H.R. 4346 would appropriate \$54.2 billion over five years, including \$52.7 billion for semiconductor research and manufacturing and \$1.5 billion for 5G development and implementation, and authorizes a 25-percent tax credit for spending on semiconductor manufacturing facilities. Additionally, H.R. 4346 authorizes, over five years, \$168.7 billion for several related agencies. Among other actions, the bill requires the NSF to support research in new fields including climate change and authorizes programs to improve the participation of underrepresented groups in STEM fields.

The Constitution does not authorize Congress to fund research and development programs for the private sector. The free market, not government, is the key to technological and economic progress.

2. Foreign Aid

During consideration of a veterans healthcare bill (S. 3373), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) offered an amendment to offset the bill's cost by prohibiting USAID from distributing foreign-aid funds, other than to Israel, for 10 years. Paul defended his proposition with examples of USAID waste, including a \$50 million "Visit Tunisia" program and a \$37 million project designed to get "Filipinos back to school."

The United States cannot afford to give aid to the rest of the world (in fact, the United States must borrow the money it gives away, since it is operating in the red), and there is no constitutional authorization to do so.

3. Inflation Reduction Act

H.R. 5376 would spend at least \$512 billion on federal programs, subsidies, and tax credits. This includes \$369 billion for various climate-change initiatives with the goal of lowering carbon emissions by 40 percent by 2030; \$64 billion to extend expanded ObamaCare subsidies for three years; and \$79.3 billion in expanded IRS funding (including to hire up to 87,000 new agents). Among multiple other programs, the bill imposes a 15-percent minimum tax — based on the OECD's global minimum tax proposal — on corporations with at least \$1 million in annual income.

Congress is failing to address its fiscally irresponsible budgeting and appropriating process that yielded a federal deficit of \$1.38 trillion in fiscal 2022. Moreover, the bill advances a radical environmentalist agenda, and virtually all of its provisions fall outside the Constitution's specified powers.

4. Hydrofluorocarbons Reduction

This resolution of ratification (Treaty Document 117-1) would ratify the 2016 Kigali Amendment to the 1987 Montreal Protocol. Under this treaty, the United States would be required to reduce hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) emissions 85 percent (compared to 2012 levels) by 2036, and create a licensing system to regulate HFC imports and exports.

The Kigali Amendment infringes on U.S. sovereignty and allows the United Nations to dictate HFC environmental regulations in the United States. Furthermore, the U.S. Constitution does not authorize federal or international regulation of HFCs.

5. Marriage

H.R. 8404 would codify the right to marry regardless of sexual orientation or race. It prohibits the states from denying marriage between two individuals on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin. This bill also repeals the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage as "only a legal union between one man and one woman."

This Marxist-inspired bill violates state sovereignty. Additionally, it embraces "woke" culture and undermines the traditional nuclear family. Rights come from God, not government.

6. Omnibus 2023 Spending

H.R. 2617 would authorize \$1.6 trillion for regular fiscal 2023 discretionary federal spending and another \$100 billion for a wide variety of other legislation (nearly \$47 billion for aid to Ukraine and roughly \$38 billion for U.S. natural disasters) that was tacked onto the bill in last-minute negotiations by congressional leaders. Looking at the big picture, this bill minimizes congressional accountability to the voters by combining the 2023 spending approval for 15 Cabinet departments and eight federal agencies into only one bill. On top of that, the federal budget deficit for 2023 is expected to be one trillion dollars.

Passage of this largely unconstitutional bill in the context of a projected \$1 trillion 2023 federal budget deficit reveals a high degree of fiscal irresponsibility and unaccountability to the voters by Congress. This Omnibus 2023 spending bill should have been punted by this "lame duck" session of Congress into the next Congress, where it would have been subject to revision by the members selected by the voters on November 8, 2022.