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CONGRESSIONAL SCORECARD

BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



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\$297,522

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of September 3, 2026



Lamar Smith

U.S. Representative, TX 21st (R)

freedomindex.us/1361/



Congressional Scorecard 115-4: 33%

✓ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional — Did not Vote **Vote**

1. Law Enforcement Partnership Grants: Authorizes \$50 million a year from 2019-2021 for the Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H.R. 3249 · 06/06/2018

2. Carbon Tax: Declares that a carbon tax would be "detrimental to American families and businesses" and "not in the best interest of the United States."



Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · H.Con.Res.119 · 07/19/2018

3. Appropriations for Defense, Labor-HHS-Education, and Continuing Appropriations: Would provide \$855.1 billion in discretionary funding for fiscal 2019.



Estimated Cost per household: **-\$10,403.00/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H.R. 6157 · 09/26/2018

4. FAA Reauthorization and Supplemental Disaster Appropriations: Reauthorizes appropriations for the FAA and TSA, as well as \$1.7 billion for Hurricane Florence disaster relief.



Estimated Cost per household: **-\$13,168.00/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H.R. 302 · 09/26/2018

5. Tax Cuts: Would make permanent the tax cuts for individuals in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 that were set to expire at the end of 2025.



Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · H.R. 6760 · 09/28/2018

6. Opioid Abuse Prevention and Health Programs: Expands Medicare and Medicaid to cover medication-assisted treatment for substance abuse.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H.R. 6 · 09/28/2018

Why do these votes matter?

1. Law Enforcement Partnership Grants

This bill (H.R. 3249) would establish a Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program within the Office of Justice Programs at the Department of Justice to foster and improve existing partnerships between local, state, and federal law-enforcement agencies to create safer neighborhoods through sustained reductions in violent crimes. It would authorize \$50 million a year in each of the fiscal years from 2019 through 2021.

The federal government is not authorized by the Constitution to partner with, train, or subsidize state or local law-enforcement agencies. Our continued existence as a free people under the Constitution depends on the continued independence of our local police from federal and state control.

2. Carbon Tax

This measure (House Concurrent Resolution 119) would express the sense of Congress “that a carbon tax would be detrimental to American families and businesses, and is not in the best interest of the United States.”

Congress has no constitutional authority to limit the use of certain sources of energy, such as carbon-based fuels, by selectively imposing taxes on them.

3. Appropriations for Defense, Labor-HHS-Education, and Continuing Appropriations

This bill (H.R. 6157) would provide \$855.1 billion in discretionary funding for fiscal 2019, including \$674.4 billion for the Defense Department (including \$67.9 billion in overseas contingency operations, i.e., Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.), \$ 90.3 billion for the Health and Human Services Department, \$71.4 billion for the Education Department, \$12.1 billion for the Labor Department, and continuing appropriations for all of the remaining federal government departments not explicitly funded by this bill until December 7, 2018.

Social welfare spending falls outside the enumerated powers of the federal government, and lumping multiple appropriations bills into one mega bill reduces lawmakers' accountability to their constituents. Moreover, even though defense spending is constitutional, the “defense” budget is bloated with funding for overseas military operations that have not contributed to the defense of our own country.

4. FAA Reauthorization and Supplemental Disaster Appropriations

This bill (H.R. 302) would reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration through fiscal year 2023, with annual authorizations for federal aviation programs increasing from \$10.2 billion in fiscal 2018 to \$11.6 billion in fiscal 2023. It also eases restrictions on FAA regulation of drones, authorizes the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and includes \$1.7 billion for Hurricane Florence disaster relief.

The bill is comprised of unconstitutional federal overreach in both aviation and disaster relief. One example is the TSA. Rather than relying on an inefficient federal bureaucracy, security should be provided by the airlines. Another example is the regulation of private-sector drones, which instead should be managed by local ordinances or (at most) state laws. Regarding disaster relief, this should be handled by private charitable efforts, not the federal government.

5. Tax Cuts

This bill (H.R. 6760) would make permanent tax cuts for individuals in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 that were set to expire at the end of 2025, including lowered tax rates, increased standard deductions (from \$13,000 to \$24,000 for joint filers), and an increased child tax credit (from \$1,000 to \$2,000).

Tax cuts keep money in the hands of those who earned it and can spur economic growth. Unfortunately, however, neither the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act nor this new legislation addresses runaway federal spending, which needs to be reined in via other legislation.

6. Opioid Abuse Prevention and Health Programs

This bill (H.R. 6), as amended by the House, would expand Medicare and Medicaid to cover medication-assisted treatment for substance abuse, while placing new requirements on states regarding Medicaid drug review and utilization.

Medicare and Medicaid are both unconstitutional programs. The U.S. Constitution gives no authority to the federal government to pay people's medical expenses, no matter how poor or disabled they are. Such assistance should be handled by states, charity, or the free market. Any expansion of Medicare or Medicaid, which is what this bill authorizes, should be voted against.