

FREEDOMINDEX.US

CONGRESSIONAL SCORECARD

BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



View the Freedom Toolbox

Scan to learn more about the Freedom Index, view legislative alerts, and deepen your understanding of the U.S. Constitution and America's founding principles. Visit <https://freedomindex.us/tools/>

\$297,333

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of August 27, 2026



Peter Welch

U.S. Senator, Vermont (D)

Phone: 202-224-4242

Website: welch.senate.gov

freedomindex.us/1393/



Congressional Scorecard 119-3: 17%

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

1. Appropriations: Would appropriate \$187 billion in total funding for select federal agencies in fiscal 2026.

Estimated Cost per household: **-\$1,373.00/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H.R. 6938 · Passed 82–15 · 01/15/2026



2. Refugee-assistance Funding: Would eliminate \$5.16 billion in refugee-and-entrant-assistance funding.

Estimated Cost per household: **-\$38.31/year.**

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **No** · H.R. 7148 · Rejected 32–67 · 01/30/2026



3. Foreign Aid: Would preserve \$12 billion in bilateral economic assistance for the United States African Development Foundation.

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H.R. 7148 · Passed 58–42 · 01/30/2026



4. War Powers: Would direct the U.S. president to end the war in Iran unless Congress explicitly declares war.

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · S. J. Res. 104 · 03/04/2026



5. VA Abortion-services Rule: Would overturn a pro-life Department of Veterans Affairs rule that excluded abortion from its "medical benefits package."

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · S. J. Res. 103 · Rejected 48–49 · 03/25/2026



6. Law-enforcement Grants: Would redirect \$31 billion designated for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to Department of Justice grants for local law enforcement.

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · S. 2 · Rejected 45–52 · 06/05/2026



Why do these votes matter?

1. Appropriations

H.R. 6938 would appropriate \$187 billion in total funding for select federal agencies in fiscal 2026. Among other provisions, it would provide \$49.1 billion for the Department of Energy, \$37.1 billion for the Department of Justice, \$24.4 billion for NASA, \$14.5 billion for the Department of the Interior, \$11.1 billion for the Department of Commerce, \$8.8 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency, \$8.8 billion for the National Science Foundation, and \$5.5 billion for more than 3,000 earmarks.

Most of the spending would go to federal departments, agencies, and programs that have no authorization or basis in the Constitution. Furthermore, this reckless spending is yielding record increases in the national debt.

2. Refugee-assistance Funding

During consideration of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (H.R. 7148), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) offered an amendment to eliminate \$5.16 billion in refugee-and-entrant-assistance funding for the Administration for Children and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services.

This program encourages increased immigration, which is a tool of the Deep State to fundamentally transform the United States by deliberately changing the country's demographics, thus radically altering the voting patterns of the nation. Additionally, although Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution authorizes Congress "to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization," it does not authorize Congress to facilitate immigration.

3. Foreign Aid

During consideration of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (H.R. 7148), Senator Chris Coons (D-Del.) made a motion to table an amendment by Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) that would eliminate \$12 billion in bilateral economic assistance for the United States African Development Foundation.

Foreign aid is not among the enumerated powers granted to the federal government by the Constitution. Article I, Section 8 does not grant Congress the power to send aid to foreign countries or nongovernmental organizations.

4. War Powers

S. J. Res. 104 would direct "the President to remove the United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Iran, unless explicitly authorized by a declaration of war or a specific authorization for use of military force."

The Constitution delegates the power to declare war to Congress, not the president. Four days earlier, President Donald Trump had transgressed this congressional power when he initiated a war against Iran without first asking Congress for authorization. Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) was the only Republican who voted yea. Yet every senator - regardless of his position on the war - should have voted for this resolution insisting that the president abide by the Constitution.

5. VA Abortion-services Rule

Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) made a motion to proceed to S. J. Res. 103, which would provide for congressional disapproval of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) rule related to "Reproductive Health Services" (90 Fed. Reg. 61310, December 31, 2025).

The VA rule related to "Reproductive Health Services" lawfully excludes "abortions and abortion counseling" from the VA's "medical benefits package." Abortion is murder, not healthcare. No person - let alone one of our nation's veterans or his or her family member - has a right to intentionally kill a preborn child. The right to life is a fundamental, God-given, and "unalienable" right mentioned in the Declaration of Independence and secured by the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the Constitution.

6. Law-enforcement Grants

During consideration of the Secure America Act (S. 2), Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) offered an amendment to redirect \$31 billion designated for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to Department of Justice grants for rehiring laid-off law-enforcement officers and hiring and training additional officers for community-oriented policing.

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution does not authorize federal involvement in domestic law enforcement. In addition to creating dependence on Washington, D.C., federal grants often come with regulations, oversight, and standardized requirements that effectively subordinate local police departments and county sheriffs to federal priorities, moving the nation closer to a nationalized police system.