

Why do these votes matter?

1. Expanding NATO

H.R. 1130 expresses the support of the House of Representatives for the applications Finland and Sweden submitted to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for joining the military alliance, and “calls on the member states of NATO to formally support the accession of Finland and Sweden into NATO,” increasing the number of NATO members from 30 to 32.

NATO is based on the principle of collective security, as opposed to each country acting in its own best interests. The expansion of this entangling military alliance, which had just 12 members at the time of its founding, increases the likelihood of the U.S. being drawn into a military conflict.

2. 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.

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. Federal Police Grants

H.R. 6448, the “Invest to Protect Act of 2022,” would direct the Department of Justice’s office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to award grants to county, municipal, town, village, and tribal governments that employ “fewer than 125 law enforcement officers.” The bill would appropriate \$60,000,000 for each year from 2023 through 2027.

This bill undermines the local control and independence of police. The strings that come attached to such grants move the United States closer to nationalizing police — making police subordinate to federal stipulations, guidelines, and control — rather than preserving local police that are independent of the federal government. Furthermore, Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution makes no provision for federal grants, training, or guidelines for local law enforcement.

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). 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.