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CONGRESSIONAL SCORECARD

BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The Congressional Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.



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\$290,860

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



Joe Cunningham

Congress

Representative, South Carolina 1st (D)

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14

Lifetime
Freedom
Score

Congressional Scorecard 116-1

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
			YES ✗
1. HR 5430 USMCA (Passed 385 to 41 on 12/19/19). Contains the most dangerous provisions of NAFTA and the TPP. It will lead to a North American regional government similar to the European Union.			
			NO ✗
2. HR 2500 Amendment Indefinite Military Detention (Failed 187 to 236 on 7/12/19). Would prohibit indefinite military detention of any person (including Americans). Indefinite detention without trial violates habeas corpus.			
			YES ✗
3. H.R. 5 Equality Act (Passed 236 to 173 on 5/17/19). Expands definition of protected classes in federal law to include "gender identity." Males who identify as females would be able to use public restrooms of the opposite sex — and vice versa.			
			YES ✗
4. H.R. 9 Paris Agreement (Passed 231 to 190 on 5/2/19). Would prohibit the use of federal funds for withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. Fulfilling the agreement would stifle U.S. economy without impacting on alleged man-made global warming			
			YES ✗
5. HR 8 Firearms Background Checks (Passed 240 to 190 on 2/27/19). Extends federal background checks to private sales, severely and unconstitutionally infringing on the right to keep and bear arms.			
			YES ✗
6. HJR 31 Consolidated Appropriations (Passed 300 to 128 on 2/14/19). Provides \$333 billion in "discretionary" spending for the seven remaining fiscal 2019 appropriations bills. Most of the bill's spending programs are unconstitutional.			
			YES ✗

Estimated cost per household: **-\$2,590.00/year.**

Scorecard Votes: 0%

Why do these votes matter?

1. USMCA

As Republican Congressman Thomas Massie recently explained to The New American magazine, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement preserves virtually all of NAFTA, then adopts major parts of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

The agreement also serves to expand the burgeoning institutions of “North American” governance, including transnational bureaucracy, courts, and regulations. The rules and laws that govern the United States should be made by Americans — not by unelected Mexican and Canadian bureaucrats and “judges” sitting on USMCA/NAFTA committees and tribunals. Plus, the Constitution delegates these powers to Congress and American states, not foreigners or regional governments.

2. On Agreeing to the Amendment 33 to H R 2500

One of the more important bills we scored, it would have protected the constitutionally guaranteed right not to be indefinitely detained without trial. This would seem to be a no-brainer. After all, one of the reasons America’s Founders declared independence from the British Crown is that the King was depriving colonists of their right to a trial by jury.

Unfortunately, many members of Congress today, in both parties, think that the military should be able to detain anyone forever — including Americans, without even charging them with a crime, and without giving them any opportunity to contest their detention. This is a grotesque abuse of power and an assault on one of the most fundamental God-given rights of every citizen in this nation.

3. Equality Act

Under this extreme legislation, religious liberty and the First Amendment would face a potentially fatal blow. In short, the federal government would become a persecutor of Christians and others of faith who hold to traditional, biblical beliefs about marriage and gender. Even churches are not exempt from the LGBT mandates, with the bill specifically stating that “religious freedom” is not a defense. This blatantly unconstitutional bill passed in the House but has not yet been voted on by the U.S. Senate.

4. Paris Agreement

Another crucial component of the war on America is the use of the discredited man-made, global-warming hypothesis as a pretext to surrender U.S. sovereignty, dismantle American industry, and centralize more power at the United Nations. As such, anyone voting to keep the U.S. government in the UN “Paris Agreement” after Trump announced our withdrawal received a negative score. Carbon dioxide is an essential gas exhaled by people and required by plants — it is not pollution!

5. Firearms Background Checks

The Second Amendment also came under attack in this Congress. This bill would have banned virtually all private firearm sales under the guise of mandating “universal background checks.” This means the government would have to approve every single gun transfer, making the God-given right to keep and bear arms into a mere privilege that the government could (and would) revoke at will. Remember what Robert “Beto” O’Rourke said: “Yes, we are coming to take your guns.”

6. Consolidated Appropriations (H.J.R. 31)

At \$23 trillion and counting, not including the estimated \$200 trillion in unfunded liabilities, the U.S. government is in more debt than any entity in all of recorded human history. Plus, the Consolidated Appropriations bill was packed with hundreds of billions of dollars in funding for unconstitutional agencies, programs, and schemes — many of which are key parts of the War on America. Members of Congress, who swore an oath to uphold the Constitution, had a duty to reject this reckless spending. Most didn’t.