

Why do these votes matter?

1. Ukraine Assistance

During consideration of the fiscal 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 8070), Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) offered an amendment specifying that “none of the funds made available by this Act may be used for assistance to Ukraine.” She noted on the House floor, “To date, Congress has appropriated \$174.2 billion [for Ukraine].” That “is a lot of Americans’ hard-earned tax dollars going to support security for another country’s border while our border is being invaded every single day.”

The United States should not interject itself into the Russia-Ukraine war by providing aid to one of the combatants, and should instead follow a noninterventionist foreign policy that puts America first. Moreover, Congress has not declared war as required by the Constitution for military activity.

2. DEI Elimination

During consideration of the fiscal 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 8070), Representative Ralph Norman (R-S.C.) offered an amendment to eliminate any offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the armed forces and Department of Defense, along with the personnel in those offices.

Neither Congress nor the president has any business promoting “woke” DEI policies to socially engineer an effeminate, egalitarian, and/or insubordinate culture in the armed forces. DEI-related changes have resulted in not only homosexuals serving openly, but women in combat and “transgendered” troops. This subverts order, discipline, and the very existence of the military itself, which is to be provided for by Congress, according to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. Federal lawmakers and the commander in chief should “bear true faith and allegiance” to the constitutional principles that our nation’s service members take an oath to “support and defend.”

3. Defunding USAID

During consideration of the fiscal 2025 State Department and foreign operations appropriations bill (H.R. 8771), Representative Greene offered an amendment to prohibit funds in the bill from being used for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), completely defunding it. In fiscal 2023, USAID’s budget was more than \$50 billion.

USAID is an unconstitutional agency. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution neither grants Congress the power to send financial aid to foreign countries nor empowers the president to do so.

4. Defunding the UN

During consideration of the fiscal 2025 State Department and foreign operations appropriations bill (H.R. 8771), Representative Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.) offered an amendment to prohibit funds in the bill from being “used to pay any United States contribution to the United Nations or any affiliated agency of the United Nations.” This would have eliminated all U.S. contributions to the UN and its affiliate agencies.

The Constitution does not authorize Congress or the president to enter the United States into global-governance bodies such as the United Nations, which undermines U.S. independence. Short of terminating U.S. membership in the UN — which Congress ought to do — Congress should not send a single penny to the nascent world-government body.

5. Education Department Title IX Rule

House Joint Resolution 165 would block a Department of Education rule that expands the federal government’s interpretation of Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include protections for sexual harassment, assault, pregnancy-related conditions, and LGBTQ+ status at colleges and universities. The rule would impose ideological mandates that undermine privacy, parental authority, and fairness — particularly in women’s sports, where biological males would be allowed to compete. They would also have access to women’s bathrooms and locker rooms.

The federal government has no constitutional authority to be involved in education or to prohibit discrimination — real or perceived.

6. Continuing Appropriations

H.R. 10545, also dubbed the “American Relief Act,” would extend funding for federal-government operations at current levels through March 14, 2025. The bill would also provide \$110 billion for disaster aid, including \$30.8 billion for farm losses, among other provisions. It does not include, however, a two-year suspension of the debt limit that was in an earlier version under a different bill number (H.R. 10515). Ironically, President-elect Donald Trump wanted the debt-limit suspension in the bill, but Democrats did not — the latter preferring to raise or suspend the debt limit under Trump’s (not Biden’s) watch.

The misnamed American Relief Act will continue the Washington spendathon, thereby continuing to run up government debt without providing any relief. Instead of kicking the can further down the road, Congress must cut spending now, not later.