



Nikki Budzinski

Congress

Representative, Illinois 13th (D)

Phone: 202-225-2371

freedomindex.us/1856/

3

Lifetime
Freedom
Score

Scan to view
vote history



Congressional Scorecard 119-2

Based on the Principles of 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.

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	\$/Year	Vote
1. S 1582 GENIUS Act (Passed 308 to 122 on 7/17/2025, Roll Call 200). Imposes new federal regulations on cryptocurrency stablecoins. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.			-\$0.02	YES ✗
2. HR 1919 Central Bank Digital Currency (Passed 219 to 210 on 7/17/2025, Roll Call 201). Prohibits the Federal Reserve from issuing a CBDC. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8 & 10.				NO ✗
3. Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene's (R-Ga.) amendment to HR 4016 Foreign Aid Programs (Rejected 63 to 365 on 7/18/2025, Roll Call 204). Eliminates \$118 million for foreign-aid programs. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.			+\$0.88	NO ✗
4. Representative Scott Perry's (R-Pa.) amendment to HR 4553 Defund Renewable-energy Office (Rejected 127 to 297 on 9/4/2025, Roll Call 236). Strikes all funding for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.			+\$14.00	NO ✗
5. S J Res 80 Alaska Petroleum Reserve Rule (Passed 216 to 209 on 11/18/2025, Roll Call 296). Overturns a 2022 Bureau of Land Management rule for the 23-million-acre National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8 & Art. IV, Sec. 3.				NO ✗
6. HR 1069 China-funded Schools (Passed 247 to 164 on 12/4/2025, Roll Call 313). Prohibits federal education funds from being awarded to any elementary or secondary school that directly or indirectly receives support from the government of the People's Republic of China. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.				YES ★

Scorecard Votes: 17%



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 freedomindex.us/tools

\$293,656

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of July 17, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. GENIUS Act

S. 1582, the "Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins (GENIUS) Act," would regulate cryptocurrency stablecoins, digital assets used as a means of payment redeemable for a fixed amount of currency. It requires stablecoin issuers to apply to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to be a "permitted payment stablecoin issuer" and maintain 1:1 reserves in approved assets. Additionally, it empowers the Federal Reserve Board, FDIC, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and Department of the Treasury to oversee permitted stablecoin issuers.

The GENIUS Act expands government surveillance and control over private financial activities, creating a backdoor to a central bank digital currency. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution does not permit Congress to regulate the financial sector, and the Fourth Amendment protects individuals from unreasonable searches and unwarranted government surveillance.

2. Central Bank Digital Currency

H.R. 1919, the "Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act," would prohibit the Federal Reserve from issuing a central bank digital currency directly to individuals or through intermediaries, bar its use as a tool of monetary policy, and prevent the creation of a federally controlled digital-dollar system that could enable financial surveillance, transaction censorship, and centralized control over Americans' economic lives.

Article I, Sections 8 and 10 of the Constitution state that only Congress has the power to "coin Money," referring to precious metals such as gold and silver. The Federal Reserve's fiat system already departs from these limits, and a central bank digital currency would further erode liberty by enabling constant tracking of transactions and unprecedented government surveillance and control over Americans' financial lives.

3. Foreign Aid Programs

During consideration of the fiscal 2026 defense appropriations bill (H.R. 4016), Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) offered an amendment to strike the language in the bill authorizing \$118 million for overseas humanitarian, disaster, and civic aid programs.

Foreign aid, not being one of the enumerated powers granted to the federal government by the Constitution, is unconstitutional. Also, as Greene pointed out on the House floor, "The American people are \$37 trillion in debt. The Department of Defense's mission is to deter war and ensure our Nation's security. That is their mission, and that is exactly what their funding should be for."

4. Defund Renewable-energy Office

During consideration of the fiscal 2026 energy-water appropriations bill (H.R. 4553), Representative Scott Perry (R-Pa.), acting for Representative Chip Roy (R-Texas), offered an amendment to strike all funding for the now-defunct Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Congress should end all unconstitutional federal control over the domestic energy sector, in accordance with Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. The push for a "green" or "renewable" economy is part of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which seeks to implement extreme "climate change" policies. It is nothing other than a fanatical attempt by globalist elites to increase their taxing authority. Rather than undermining American sovereignty, energy independence, and free-market principles, Congress must refrain from exercising regulatory powers that the 10th Amendment reserves to the "States respectively, or to the people."

5. Alaska Petroleum Reserve Rule

S. J. Res. 80 would overturn a 2022 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) rule for the 23-million-acre National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). This disapproval restores a less-restrictive plan that opens more areas to development, and reverses the closure of 48 percent of the NPR-A.

Congress' disapproval nullifies an unconstitutional regulation that imposed restrictive land management and burdened energy production. The BLM's management of lands exceeds constitutional limits under Article I, Section 8; Article IV, Section 3; and the 10th Amendment. Additionally, such environmentalist policies align with the UN's Agenda 2030, undermining national sovereignty and individual liberty. Congress should reject such policies, abolish the BLM, and transfer lands to state or private ownership.

6. China-funded Schools

H.R. 1069, the "PROTECT Our Kids Act," would prohibit federal education funds from being awarded to any elementary or secondary school that directly or indirectly receives support from the government of the People's Republic of China. This includes partnerships with Confucius Institutes or Classrooms and other arrangements involving Chinese government-backed funding, materials, or personnel.

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution does not permit Congress to fund or legislate on education. Furthermore, federal funds should not subsidize foreign governments' propaganda, especially adversarial communist regimes with a documented record of censorship and influence operations. Allowing China to finance curricula, personnel, or materials in American schools threatens national sovereignty, undermines parental authority, and exposes students to ideological indoctrination incompatible with American principles.