



Joseph Hoeffel

Congress

Representative, Pennsylvania 13th (D)

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Score

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Congressional Scorecard 108-1

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	Vote
1. Rep. Ron Paul's (R-TX) amendment to HR 1950 Ban on UN Contributions (Rejected 74 to 350 on 7/15/2003, Roll Call 364). Would prohibit funding for any U.S. contribution to the United Nations or any UN-affiliated agency.			NO ✗
2. S 3 Partial-Birth Abortion Ban (Passed 281 to 142 on 10/2/2003, Roll Call 530). Would ban partial-birth abortions.			NO ✗
3. HR 1 Prescription Drug Benefit (Passed 220 to 215 on 11/22/2003, Roll Call 669). Would create a prescription drug benefit for Medicare recipients. See U.S. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 8. Estimated cost per household: -\$3,543.00/year.			NO ★
4. HCR 393 Fiscal 2005 Budget Resolution (Passed 215 to 212 on 3/25/2004, Roll Call 92). Would establish broad spending and revenue targets over the next five years, for a total budget of \$2.4 trillion. See U.S. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 8. Estimated cost per household: -\$21,429.00/year.			NO ★
5. HR 2844 Continuity of Congress (Passed 306 to 97 on 4/22/2004, Roll Call 130). Would require special elections to be held within 45 days to fill vacant House seats in the extraordinary circumstance of more than 100 vacancies. See U.S. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 4.			YES ★
6. HR 3313 Marriage Protection Act (Passed 233 to 194 on 7/22/2004, Roll Call 410). Would protect marriage from judicial activism by restricting the federal courts as opposed to amending the Constitution.			NO ✗

Scorecard Votes: 50%



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\$292,403

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of July 10, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Ban on UN Contributions

This amendment to H.R. 1950 (Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005) by Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas) stated that "none of the funds authorized ... by this Act may be obligated or expended to pay any United States contribution to the United Nations or any affiliated agency of the United Nations."

Blocking the funding for the United Nations in this bill would be a first step toward getting our nation out of the UN and fully restoring our national sovereignty.

2. Partial-Birth Abortion Ban

The final version (conference report) of S. 3 would ban partial-birth abortions. Although on March 12 the Senate had amended their version of S. 3 to include a reaffirmation of Roe v. Wade, on September 30 a 10-member House-Senate conference committee agreed to report out a final version of the bill identical to one (H.R. 760) that passed the House earlier this year without any reaffirmation of Roe v. Wade. Of course, all abortion procedures should be banned. But this bill is still a step in the right direction in that it is better to ban one abortion procedure than to ban none at all.

All forms of abortion constitute the murder of preborn children, and the Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, overstepped its proper authority by "legalizing" abortion in the first place.

3. Prescription Drug Benefit

The final version (conference report) of H.R. 1 would create a prescription drug benefit for Medicare recipients. Beginning in 2006, prescription coverage would be available to seniors through private insurers for a monthly premium. The total cost of the new prescription drug benefit would be limited to the \$400 billion that Congress had budgeted earlier this year for the first 10 years of this new entitlement program.

This landmark legislation establishes a major new unconstitutional entitlement program.

4. Fiscal 2005 Budget Resolution

This resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 393) would establish broad spending and revenue targets over the next five years. It calls for \$871.3 billion in "discretionary" spending (including \$50 billion for supplemental funding of operations in Iraq) and another \$1.5 trillion in "mandatory" spending for fiscal 2005. Based on these targets, the "mandatory" spending portion of the budget would increase by 5 percent over last year, and the total budget -- a whopping \$2.4 trillion -- would increase by 3 percent.

The 2005 budget perpetuates the fiscally irresponsible, largely unconstitutional federal spending with its attendant record-breaking deficits of recent years.

5. Continuity of Congress

This bill (H.R. 2844) would require special elections to be held within 45 days to fill vacant House seats in the extraordinary circumstance of more than 100 vacancies. This requirement would be waived if the vacancies occur within 75 days of an already-scheduled general election.

This bill is a good example of Congress using its legitimate power under the Constitution to solve a problem rather than proposing a potentially dangerous constitutional amendment. It utilizes an already-existing congressional power to address a bona-fide concern and preempts an alternative proposal for a large number of vacant House seats being filled by appointment.

6. Marriage Protection Act

This bill (H.R. 3313) would protect marriage from judicial activism by restricting the federal courts as opposed to amending the Constitution. Specifically, H.R. 3313 would stipulate that "no court created by Act of Congress shall have any jurisdiction, and the Supreme Court shall have no appellate jurisdiction" to interpret, or rule on the constitutionality of, Title 28, Section 1738C of the U.S. Code. Section 1738C states that no state, territory, or possession of the U.S. "shall be required to give effect" to same-sex "marriages" performed under the laws of another state, territory, or possession.

H.R. 3313 would help protect marriage via a long-neglected congressional check on the federal judiciary.