

Why do these votes matter?

1. Budget Resolution

The final version of the Fiscal 2010 Budget Resolution (S.Con.Res. 13) calls for \$3.56 trillion in federal spending for the fiscal year beginning on September 1, 2009. This level of spending would be significantly less than the \$4.0 trillion the Obama administration forecast in May that the federal government would spend in the current fiscal year, but significantly more than the \$3.0 trillion the federal government spent in fiscal 2008. And the deficit for fiscal 2010 would be more than \$1 trillion.

Much of the budget is unconstitutional (e.g., foreign aid, education, healthcare, etc.), and the federal government should end deficit spending and live within its means.

2. Body Image Screening

During consideration of the H.R. 2200, Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) offered an amendment that would prohibit the use of Whole-Body Imaging (WBI) as the primary method of screening at airports. The amendment would allow passengers the option of a pat-down search rather than being subjected to a WBI search that shows extremely intimate details of one's body. The Chaffetz amendment would also prohibit TSA from storing, copying, or transferring any images that are produced by WBI machines.

Such technology is obtrusive for American citizens and violates our right of protection against unwarranted searches and seizures.

3. Cap and Trade

The American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454), also known as the cap-and-trade bill, would not merely "cap" carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse" gas emissions, ostensibly to fight global warming, but would reduce the amount of allowable emissions over time — to 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, 42 percent by 2030, and 83 percent by 2050. The government would auction or freely distribute a limited number of emission allowances, which companies would be able to buy or sell. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the effect of the House committee version of the bill would be to raise federal taxes by \$846 billion and direct federal spending by \$821 billion over the 2010-2019 period.

This legislation would be devastating to the economy if enacted and the federal government has no constitutional authority to limit greenhouse-gas emissions.

4. Omnibus Appropriations

This catch-all legislative package (H.R. 3288) is comprised of six appropriations bills for fiscal 2010 that Congress failed to complete separately. The total price tag in the final version (conference report) of H.R. 3288 is about \$1.1 trillion.

Many of the bill's spending programs — e.g., education, housing, foreign aid, etc. — are unconstitutional. Moreover, lawmakers should have been able to vote on component parts of the total package.

5. Withdrawing U.S. Soldiers From Afghanistan

This legislation (House Concurrent Resolution 248) would direct the President to remove the U.S. Armed Forces from Afghanistan within 30 days of enactment, or by the end of the year if the President determines they cannot be safely removed sooner.

The U.S. military presence in Afghanistan cannot be justified on the basis of defending the United States, there has been no declaration of war, & Congress needs to assert constitutional authority to decide when we do go to war.

6. ObamaCare

This historic bill (H.R. 3590), officially titled the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," went on to be signed into law (Public Law 111-148) by President Obama on March 23, 2010. Popularly known as "ObamaCare," this bill essentially completed the government takeover of the American healthcare system that was begun with Medicare and Medicaid in 1965. The law creates 159 new government agencies, which will inevitably drive private healthcare insurers out of the market. This would create an exchange in each state for the purchase of government-approved health insurance, mandate that most individuals purchase health insurance, fine individuals who don't purchase health insurance, subsidize the purchase of health insurance, require employers with 50 or more employees to provide healthcare coverage or pay a fine if any employee gets a subsidized healthcare plan from the exchange, and prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions.

The federal government has no constitutional authority to require individuals to purchase health insurance or to manage the healthcare industry.