

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**April 27, 2026**

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## **Government Affairs Update**

Both chambers of Congress are scheduled to be out of session next week, as several major legislative issues remain unresolved.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has now gone 73 days without enacted funding. The administration has indicated that it may not be able to continue paying DHS employees beyond the end of the month without congressional action. In the House, some Republican members, including those aligned with the Freedom Caucus, have stated they will not support the Senate-passed fiscal year 2026 DHS appropriations measure until there is further progress on a separate budget reconciliation bill focused on immigration enforcement funding.

House Speaker Mike Johnson has suggested that advancing the Senate's fiscal year 2027 budget resolution could demonstrate sufficient momentum to move the appropriations bill forward. Recent events, including an incident at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner, may add to the urgency surrounding DHS funding.

Meanwhile, the Senate has begun work on what is being referred to as a second phase of reconciliation. The Senate Budget Committee released its fiscal year 2027 budget resolution, which directs the Homeland Security and Judiciary Committees to propose legislative changes that could increase the deficit by up to \$70 billion over ten years. These changes are expected to include funding for immigration enforcement agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The Senate approved the budget resolution by a 50–48 vote following extended debate and a series of amendment votes. Two Republican senators voted against the measure, and two senators did not vote. The chamber adopted one amendment establishing deficit-neutral funding for the apprehension and deportation of individuals convicted of serious crimes, while rejecting several others addressing a range of policy issues, including healthcare costs, housing affordability, insurance practices, federal spending priorities, election requirements, and Medicaid funding restrictions.

If the House adopts the same budget resolution, committees will begin drafting reconciliation legislation. Any differences between House and Senate versions could require additional Senate consideration.

House Republican leadership is also preparing a framework for a potential third reconciliation bill, with the stated goal of keeping the current effort limited in scope while signaling plans for additional tax and spending measures later in the year.

On appropriations for fiscal year 2027, House appropriators have approved initial funding allocations for six of the twelve annual spending bills. These allocations serve as preliminary guidelines and may change during negotiations. Funding levels for more complex areas, including defense and health programs, have not yet been released. House Appropriations Committee leadership has expressed a goal of advancing all twelve bills by early July, though prospects for Senate passage remain uncertain.

In addition, House Republicans are making another attempt to extend surveillance authorities under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act before they expire later this week. A revised proposal includes additional oversight provisions and penalties for misuse but does not incorporate certain provisions sought by some members.

Democratic leadership has indicated that they were not involved in drafting the latest version and may not support it, although some individual Democrats have backed extending the authority. If the House is unable to pass a measure, the Senate is prepared to consider its own version.

On foreign policy, Senate Republicans blocked consideration of a resolution related to U.S. involvement in the Iran conflict. The procedural vote saw limited bipartisan crossover. In the House, Democrats may attempt to bring forward a similar resolution as the conflict reaches the 60-day mark.

Recent changes in House membership have slightly altered party ratios. Following one resignation and the death of another member, the chamber now stands at 218 Republicans and 212 Democrats, giving Republicans a narrow majority.

This week, the House is expected to consider several measures, including the surveillance reauthorization bill, the Senate budget resolution, a farm bill, and education-related legislation. Additional bills will be taken up under expedited procedures, addressing topics such as tax administration, disaster relief, child support enforcement, and intellectual property protections. The Senate's schedule will focus primarily on confirming administration nominees, while also remaining prepared to act on surveillance legislation if necessary.

Separately, King Charles is scheduled to address a joint session of Congress.

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### TIA's Legislative Update will resume on 5/11/26

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